

INTERNATIONAL

UK teacher sentenced to death

RANGOON, Dec 28. (AP): A Burmese court today convicted a British teacher and his Burmese cook of murdering the teacher's wife and sentenced both to death.

Thomas Andrew Kirkpatrick, 38, of Suffolk, wept as the Insein township court passed judgement.

The court said Kirkpatrick's cook, 42-year-old Saw William, carried out the Briton's request to kill Lynn Kirkpatrick and set fire to her body. Her remains were found in the couple's home in a wealthy Rangoon suburb.

Saw William had stated that he suffocated Mrs Kirkpatrick with a pillow and set her body and the bedroom ablaze at Kirkpatrick's request because Mrs Kirkpatrick was interfering in her husband's affair with a British woman.

However, he later retracted the statement and said it had been made under police coercion.

The woman, identified only as "Miss Helen," testified that she did have an affair with Kirkpatrick. The woman, an English teacher at the foreign language institute in Rangoon, has returned to England.

Mrs Kirkpatrick, a Malaysian-born British citizen, died only two weeks after she and the couple's child arrived in Rangoon to join Kirkpatrick, who taught English at Rangoon's institute of education.

Afghan rebels deny Khost siege broken

ISLAMABAD, Dec 28. (AP): Afghan rebels have refuted the Kabul government claims to have reopened the strategic road leading to the northeastern city of Khost, where Afghan forces are besieged by guerrillas.

The guerrillas said Soviet paratroopers who had landed in Khost four days ago are trapped there along with 20,000 Afghan troops.

Meanwhile, the official Soviet news agency Tass quoted an Afghan official as saying that an American adviser had been killed in fighting in the Khost area.

The road runs 115 kilometres from the provincial capital of Gardez to Khost on the Pakistani border.

"We inform our compatriots that the security of the road from Gardez to Khost has been ensured. The road is open for normal traffic," Kahlil Radio quoted Minister of Tribes and Nationalities Solayman Laeq as saying last night.

The people of the Zadrin region, through which the road runs, had refused to enter discussions with the government about reopening the road last month.

After all these peaceful measures by the local authorities using local means, steps were

taken to ensure peace in the Zadrin region," Laeq said. He did not elaborate.

Guerrilla official Abdul Rahim denied the radio report and said the guerrillas were becoming more organised and were resisting well.

He said up to 1,500 Soviet paratroopers were trapped in Khost after landing there four days ago and that heavy fighting was raging in Sata Kandao to the north and in Marijan Dukan to the south.

Calls for a withdrawal of Soviet troops that entered Afghanistan Dec 27, 1979, were echoed in the United States, India, Pakistan, Japan, Germany and Britain Sunday, but Moscow was silent over what has become popularly called the Soviet Union's Vietnam war.

Occupation

In the Iranian city of Isfahan, several Afghans were injured and arrested Sunday when they stormed the Soviet consulate, the official Islamic Republic News Agency said. Moscow lodged an official protest of the assault in which several security personnel were hurt and claimed the consulate was damaged.

President Reagan called on

Moscow to "end once and for all its brutal occupation."

Reagan assailed the Soviet invasion as "an unprovoked and blatant affront to both human decency and international law" and declared "the Afghan people will not be conquered." Washington backs the Afghan guerrillas with millions of dollars in military aid.

"Afghanistan is (an) important test of Soviet good faith," British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said. "We in the European Economic Community and the rest of the world look to the Soviet Union to withdraw all their troops in 1988 according to an agreed timetable. Only this can end the misery of Afghanistan."

"The Soviet leadership can be happy the war crimes laws they helped draft at Nuremberg won't be applied to them," said Juergen Todenhoefer, a political ally of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and visitor to Afghanistan in 1980 and 1984.

"Mikhail Gorbachev talks a lot about peace, but even under Gorbachev, Afghanistan is a hell," he said.

Agency Afghan Press said guerrillas carried out raids throughout Afghanistan and cut power lines in Kabul.

Iranian bomber executed

NICOSIA, Dec 28. (AP): An Iranian convicted of planting bombs in Tehran and spying for Iraq was publicly executed yesterday on a street, site of a 1985 explosion, Tehran Radio said.

The death sentence was carried out in the afternoon in Tehran's Hashemi Avenue, the scene of an explosion two years ago, said the radio, monitored in Nicosia. It did not disclose how he was executed.

Ali Baba Moradi, a native of Marivan, western Iran, was tried by the Islamic revolutionary court in Tehran, which found him "guilty of planting bombs in Tehran which killed many people."

He has been accused of "membership of a bombing network affiliated with the intelligence organisation of the Iraqi regime, transporting of bombs and explosives from Iraq to Iran, and helping to set off bombs during the Tasua ceremonies in 1985 as well as in other parts of Tehran which killed or injured a large number of innocent people," the radio said.

The Tasua ceremonies are held at a different time each year to mark the martyrdom of the Imam Hussein.



A man in Little Rock, Arkansas, trying to retrieve some possessions from his house using a boat. (Reuters radiophoto)

Snowstorm kills 13 in US Midwest

NEW YORK, Dec 28. (AP): A slow-moving storm blamed for at least 13 deaths buried the Midwest with snow today as it headed east after snarling holiday traffic and keeping thousands of Arkansas and Tennessee residents from flood-ravaged homes.

The storm dumped up to 76 centimetres of snow Sunday on the Western Plains, shutting Denver's airport for the first time since 1983 and closing interstate highways in Wyoming, Oklahoma and Colorado.

"We wanted a white Christmas, but not this white," said Anne Ayres, 27, one of thousands stranded at Denver's Stapleton international airport.

Up to 20 centimetres of snow was expected today in parts of Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota as the storm headed east, prompting coastal storm watches in parts of Virginia, Delaware and Maryland, the National Weather Service said.

At least 18 centimetres had fallen in Manson City, Iowa.

Damage

Authorities in Millington, Tennessee, and nearby West Memphis, Arkansas, ventured into flood-stricken areas Sunday

to assess damage, but lingering water swollen by more than 30 centimetres of rain since Wednesday slowed their progress.

Most of the 3,200 evacuees in Millington and 450 in West Memphis had yet to return home, officials said.

"There's mud all over everywhere, they're getting cars towed, fences are down," said Ruby Smith of Millington. "People can't go back to their houses. A lot of people lost everything. So it's a bad sight down here in some parts."

The weather service discontinued a flood watch for Western Tennessee as the sky cleared Sunday, signaling the end of the flooding that began Christmas Day.

Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton issued his second disaster declaration in as many weeks and asked President Ronald Reagan to do likewise. West Memphis was hit by a tornado Dec 14 that killed six people and caused \$35 million damage.

Three Tennessee motorists died in the flooding. The storm was blamed for at least 10 other traffic deaths on ice-covered highways in Kansas and Oklahoma.

Death toll rises to 30

Sri Lankan police deny killing civilians

COLOMBO, Dec 28. (Reuters): Police today denied charges that they deliberately killed civilians in a violence-filled weekend in the east of the island which left 30 people dead.

According to an Indian High Commission official on Sunday, police, enraged by the gunning down of a colleague in the Batticaloa market square by Tamil guerrillas, rushed to the town, killed 12 civilians and set fire to a row of shops. A Roman Catholic priest in the town said "they dragged people out of shops and shot them on the market square."

But a police spokesman in Colombo denied the charges, saying most of the civilians died in crossfire. He said his information was based on a report received from the Batticaloa police.

Residents of the town said the death toll rose to 30 with the discovery of more bodies this morning.

After a curfew ended this morning, crowds filled the streets.

"Though life returned to normal in the town, smoke rising from rows of burnt shops was a grim reminder of the disaster."

one resident said.

A local journalist said he saw at least 20 shops, motorcycles and bicycles destroyed by fire.

"There was blood all over the place. It was carnage," the journalist, who declined to be identified, said.

"We were under the impression that the peace would continue for many more days. But it was not to be," the Roman Catholic priest said.

Church leaders had appealed for a Christmas truce between Tamil rebels and Indian peace-keeping forces. Police said there were no serious incidents on Christmas Day and Saturday.

Up to 35,000 Indian troops have been sent to the north and east of the country to implement a July peace accord aimed at ending a four-year-old minority Tamil rebellion for a separate state.

The soldiers have been trying to disarm the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the most powerful separatist group, who repudiated the accord.

State radio reported today that Indian troops killed 14 Tigers and captured 120 more in the north and east during the past 24 hours.

Bingo Day 14
27 53 65 57

Palestinian government-in-exile

PLO testing world opinion

ABU DHABI, Dec 28. (Agencies): The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is testing world opinion on its setting up a government-in-exile, a senior PLO official said in an interview published in Al Ittihad newspaper today.

"What matters now is world response, whether in Europe, Latin America, Canada or in the Arab, Islamic, and African countries," PLO leader Yasser Arafat's political adviser, Hani Al Hassan, said in the interview he gave in Cairo.

Hani said a special committee on the proposal was exploring possible reactions to the idea and he had raised the issue with some European states during a nine-day tour. He did not name them or say what their reactions were.

Arafat established the PLO committee to consider forming a government-in-exile in the wake of rums in Israeli-occupied territories this month in which at least 22 Palestinians were killed and hundreds more were wound

ded or arrested.

"We are now convinced that circumstances have become ripe to set up a government-in-exile," Hassan said.

"We are optimistic... we have taken into account all possibilities including non-recognition by some countries, especially the United States," he said. "We do not hinge any hope on the US."

Response

Hassan said he discussed the idea with Arab ambassadors in Cairo and with Egyptian officials and added: "Egypt's response was positive."

Al Ittihad said Hassan had flown to Riyadh where the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Arab leaders are meeting. It did not say if he went specifically to sound out opinion on the government-in-exile idea.

He was quoted as saying anti-Israeli protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip had proved that "there is a Palestin-

GCC will send envoy to Tehran for talks on war

(Continued from Page 1)

The communique praised the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and hailed the resistance of the Palestinian people to the Israeli terrorism. It called upon the world to stand by and support the struggle of the Palestinians.

It called on the Lebanese people to achieve unity and brotherhood.

The communique expresses GCC's total support for the struggle of the Afghan Mujahideen and asked the Soviet Union to respond to international calls and withdraw its forces from Afghanistan. It supported UN efforts to bring about a solution that would ensure the return of all Afghan refugees to their homeland, non-interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, preservation of its Islamic identity, and Soviet-Afghan relations based on mutual respect.

Warned

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed said that the results of the summit would strengthen cooperation between GCC states in the military, security and economic fields.

He warned that caution must be used to face the possible dangers faced by all.

He stressed Kuwait is alert to what was going on around it, and added that Kuwait is adhering to its well known principles and would never deviate from them.

He said that all security agencies in the country were intensifying their efforts against terrorists and criminals, whoever they were.

Police disperse Dhaka protesters

(Continued from Page 1)

for new elections," a joint committee of the 21 opposition parties said in a statement today.

Ershad, trying to weather the worst crisis in his nearly six years in power, has said he will not step down under pressure.

Despite current protests, Ershad seems to enjoy wide support from the rural people who credit him with being able to feed the country's 107 million people despite disastrous floods and the persistent political turmoil.

"Maybe he has many lapses and shortcomings," but he still deserves thanks for averting a widely predicted famine, a rural-council chairman said today.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinian Patriarch

VATICAN CITY, Dec 28. (Reuters): Pope John Paul has named a Palestinian born in Nazareth, Michel Sabbah, as Latin (Roman Catholic) Patriarch of Jerusalem, the Vatican said today.

An official statement said Sabbah, 54, would replace Italian Giacomo Giuseppe Beltritti, 77, who was retiring due to his age.

The announcement came a week after the Pope called for peace in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Forest fire

BEIJING, Dec 28. (AP): A series of forest fires caused heavy damage in mountainous areas of east China's Anhui province, the Liberation daily newspaper reported.

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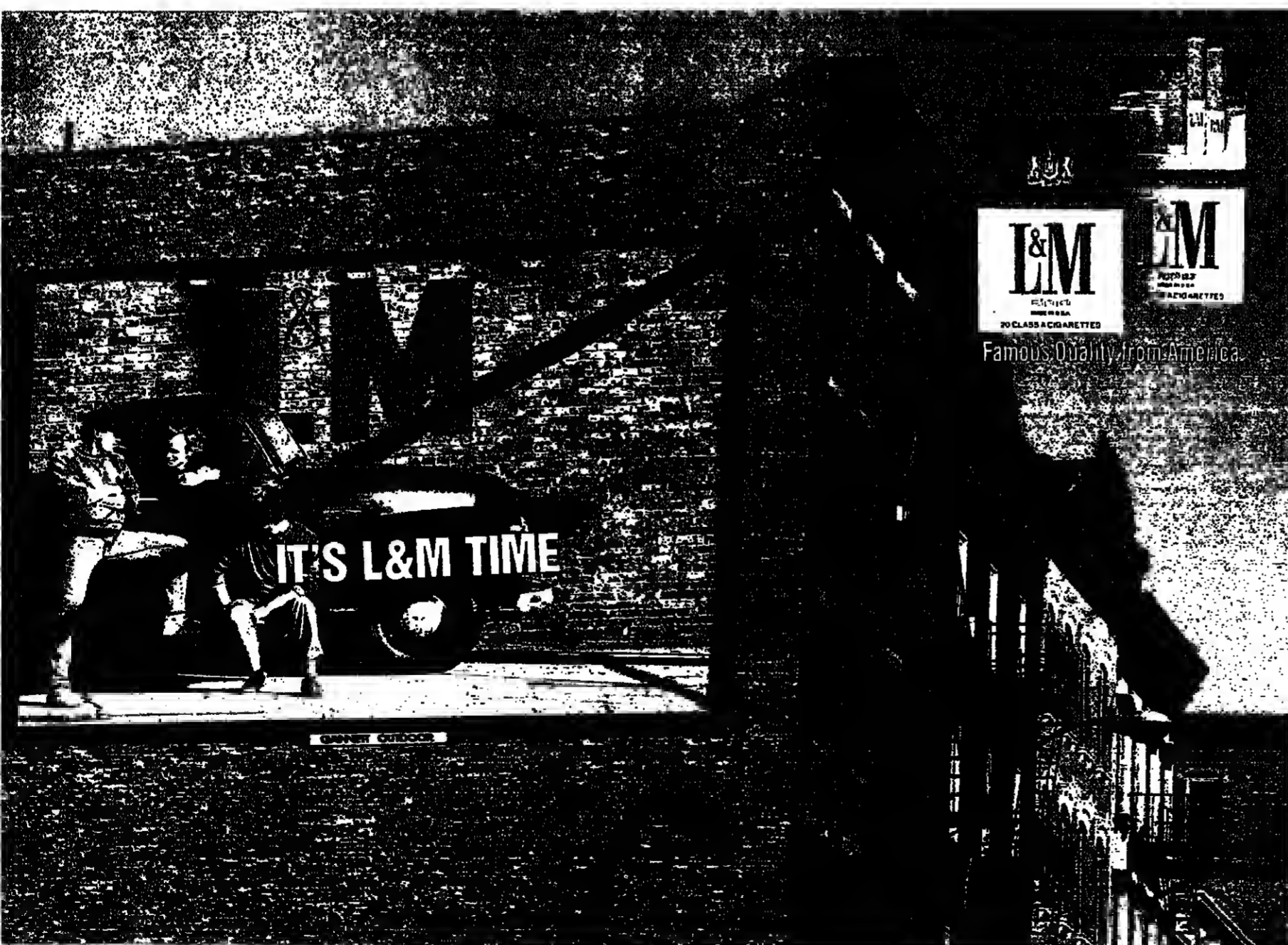
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Sheikh Nasser stresses information security

No one will be allowed to fish in troubled waters

THE Minister of Information Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed yesterday stressed that the "information security" forms an important base of the state's information policy.

Speaking to a number of citizens and journalists at his weekly diwaniya, which has been newly identified as "citizen day", the minister said the Kuwaiti government, under the guidance of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, do not allow anyone to damage interests of the state.

Sheikh Nasser said the government will not allow anyone to "fish in troubled waters" not to touch on the country's security.

The minister hailed the Gulf Cooperation Council states' cooperation in the information field, noting that Kuwait has participated in Bahrain's National Day celebrations within the framework of the two countries' joint information agreement.

The minister, in the meantime, welcomed cooperation between the six GCC member states on their national occasions.

Fund raising

In response to a question Sheikh Nasser said, newspapers will not advertise any fund raising announcement from any quarters unless it carries the written approval of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

Speaking on the French programmes in both radio and

television Sheikh Nasser said those programmes are broadcast in the two TV channels and on the radio's European programme. He added that other foreign movies and programmes including German, Italian and Russian, also have time in Kuwait Television.

The minister said in response to a question that French programmes will not be included in the January session of the TV because of some problems with the French producers that "we hope to be solved soon".

French newspaper

Issuing a French newspaper is a business matter, the minister said, noting that the French newspaper can be seen in Kuwait three days a week.

Sheikh Nasser welcomed Kuwaiti Ambassador to India, Ali Al Ansari who was present at the citizen day meeting yesterday. Al Ansari is an artist as well as a diplomat.

Al Ansari composed a symphony that was broadcast to Kuwaiti TV last year. Sheikh Nasser in this respect hoped that Al Ansari would compose another one to be added to the Kuwaiti art library.

Encyclopaedia

Radio Kuwait will broadcast as of January first and for an estimated period of five years the entire content of the theology (Fiqh) encyclopaedia which was compiled and published by the State of Kuwait recently.

The broadcast of some 4,000 theology idioms printed in 25 chapters in the encyclopaedia will cover all walks of life in the Muslims in both their private and public activities, Sheikh Nasser said.

In his announcement yesterday, Sheikh Nasser hoped that the service would convey the invaluable knowledge contained in this priceless book to the rank and file of Muslims.

The behaviour of the individual in his daily life should be derived from the true interpretation of the Holy Quran and the Sunna of the Prophet (PBUH) so that he does not fall victim to the superstitions and lies and safeguards himself from diverse trends, the minister said.

Giant

Sheikh Nasser said that the theology broadcast and the publication of the Islamic encyclopaedia are both giant projects undertaken by the State of Kuwait in pursuance of the deep convictions of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier of their duty toward the Islamic nation.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has been the pioneer in meeting an Islamic need by publishing the Islamic encyclopaedia which has come to be recognised as an authority worldwide, the minister said, hoping that the theology service will render yet a greater service to Muslims.



● Kuwait's Interior Minister, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, yesterday hosted a dinner party at the Kuwait Towers in honour of the Austrian Interior Minister, Karl Blecha. He is seen with the guest of honour during the party.

IIICA opens Charity Week in Jahra governorate

THE International Islamic Charity Authority opened its Charity Week in the Jahra governorate on Sunday under the patronage of Jahra Governor Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Nasser.

Yousef Al Hajji, chairman of the authority, said in his opening speech that the authority was established to support the poor, the sick, orphans and victims of disaster and hunger in Islamic countries and communities. He added that statistics show that several Islamic countries suffer from poverty, poor health and inadequate educational facilities, with illiteracy reaching as high as 90 in some of these

countries. He explained further that the annual income of individuals in these poverty-stricken countries was about \$100 and the amount spent on medical care per person was estimated to be about one dollar per person annually.

Al Hajji said that the authority is working to collect \$1 billion from Muslims throughout the world to help in training projects which would improve job opportunities for Muslim workers.

Refugees

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Social Reform Society opened its Charity Week for Afghan Mujahideen and refugees to mark the eighth anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Abdulla Al Mutawa, the chairman of the society, speaking at the opening said that the invasion was one of the worst colonisation attacks since the Second World War and that the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan aimed at destroying Islam

and Muslims throughout the world.

He added that Muslims in various places throughout the world are facing attacks and attempts to destroy them because the West and the East know that Islam threatens their imperialistic and colonial ambitions. He said that they understand that Islam is a fair system which exposes their false principles and ambitions.

Security gate

Professor Burhul Deen Rabhani, the representative of the Afghan Mujahideen and the leader of the Afghanistan Islamic Society, expressed his appreciation to the society for organising the Charity Week and for giving attention to the Afghan problem. He said that Afghanistan is a "security gate" for the whole Islamic world and Arab Gulf in particular.

A photography exhibition is part of the activities planned for the Charity Week.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri cable

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to the King of Nepal on his country's National Day.

Deputy Amiri audiences

HH the Deputy Amir, Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday received at his office the Interior Minister, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed and the Public Works Minister, Abdul Rahman Al Houti.

Sheikh Saad received Kuwait's permanent representative to the United Nations Ambassador Mohammed Abul Hassan.

Sheikh Saad also received a number of citizens at the public diwan.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

UAE proposal supported

KUWAITI newspaper Al Rai Al Aam yesterday supported a proposal by United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan that a delegation of heads of Gulf states go to Tehran to negotiate an end to the Gulf war.

"The idea is logical and we have not tried it," the paper said in a front page editorial.

It described the proposal as an integrated plan, which could solve many problems of the region. President Zayed made the proposal in an interview published Saturday in the Saudi newspapers.

The paper pointed out that the most important thing in the interview was that Sheikh Zayed held the big powers responsible for the crisis in the Gulf region and Middle East.



● M M Ramachandran of Atlas Jewellery is seen presenting a plaque to the secretary of Moods and Melody orchestra, Radhakrishnan (left), in appreciation of the orchestra's performance at Maldan Hawalli Labour Union Hall recently.



● Girl Guides from Jahra Intermediate schools held their second camp recently with cooking, upholstering and sculpturing activities and competitions. The opening ceremony was attended by the director of the Jahra Educational Area, controllers of intermediate and secondary education and area educational supervisors. Pictures (above) shows Girl Guides line up for opening of their second camp and (below) girls and judges gather around for the cooking competition.



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Anti-smoking Health Day

A SPECIAL committee set up by Kuwait's Health Ministry to plan International Health Day, 1988, celebrations met last week and agreed to have an International Anti-smoking Health Day to be celebrated on April 7, 1988.

The committee will work with the women's and cooperative societies in their anti-smoking campaigns and a contest will be organised for the occasion. The committee also agreed to have slogans which would be printed on envelopes and letters by the Ministry of Communications.

Telex revenue increases

KAMAL Al Zuhair, the controller of Kuwait's international telegrams and telex account at the Ministry of Communications, said that the ministry collected KD7 million in 1980 for telex services and KD8.5 million in 1985. He explained that the increase was because of the improved economic situation in the country and the civil war in Lebanon. He added that the Iraq-Iran war and the Manak crisis have contributed to lack of more growth.

Al Zuhair said that the ministry has 32 direct telex lines and 19 direct telegram lines.

Reagan-Assad summit planned

A US proposal will be carried soon to Damascus by US Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Richard Murphy to see into the possibility of holding a summit between the two countries' presidents, a diplomatic source in Beirut was quoted as saying yesterday.

The source told a Kuwaiti daily that certain obstacles obstruct a meeting between Presidents Reagan and Hafez Assad in either Washington or Damascus.

Because of these problems, the paper noted, the US suggests holding such a summit in Vienna or any other neutral city, similar to what took place between ex-US President Jimmy Carter and Assad in the late 70s.

The source expected President Assad to go along with the US motion simply because Vice-President George Bush is the frontrunner in the fall race to the White House, and that if he wins no change will come upon the current US policy.

Shaheen receives Indian envoy

INDIA'S Ambassador to Kuwait, N.N. Jha, yesterday met the Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, Sulaiman Al Shaheen.

Their conversation included the latest developments in the Gulf.

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Mixed reaction to ministry's interference in cooperatives

KUWAIT'S Social Affairs and Labour Ministry recently appointed members to the councils of four cooperative societies, and this action had some supporters and dissenters.

The chairman of Salmiya Cooperative Society, Badr Saif Abed, told a local newspaper that he was against the ministry's action and the ministry did not have the right to interfere with appointments without cause, though it could interfere if the administration was had or dishonesty was discovered. He said that such appointments were at random without considering any standards. If members are appointed then they should be residents of the area.

The deputy chairman of Daiya Cooperative Society, Khalifa Abdullah Al Fadala, said the action was a two-edged weapon,

with one edge harmful and the other beneficial. He said there was no need to appoint members to the boards of new societies, and such a step should be taken only if the ministry considered a cooperative as badly run.

He said appointing three members to a board may have positive or negative effects. He added that if the appointed members gave valuable services there would not be any problems with the nine elected members. He said appointing members to the board was a step to improve supervision of the societies because the ministry could not check on 38 cooperative societies. He said the ministry should choose members carefully and not depend on recommendations of the mukhtar.

The director general of Khal-

diya Cooperative Society, Abdulla Nasser Al Saad, approved of appointing members, but only at badly organised societies. He said that societies had many problems and the appointments could have a good or bad effect. He said that the ministry should be careful to select well qualified people for appointment. The ministry had a complete file on cooperative problems and was able to deal with them. The decision will solve mistakes and problems at some societies. He said that officials at cooperatives were sensitive about the appointments.

A shareholder of Salmiya Cooperative Society, Ali Salem, said the decision was good for some societies but not for the Salmiya Society because it was administered well.

University budget discussed

KUWAIT University's Board of Directors held a meeting recently under the chairmanship of the Education Minister and University Chancellor Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri during which they discussed the draft budget for the 1988-1989 fiscal year and closing accounts for the 1986-1987 fiscal year.

The board agreed to a proposal submitted by the Faculty of Science to grant the Mathematics Department three academic degrees.

The board also agreed to the promotions of Dr. Basel Al Naqbi and Dr. Homammed Mustaff to professors and Dr. Sami Sadeq, Dr. Maher Marzouk and Dr. Yaqoub Maqdesi to associate professors.

Compulsory insurance system criticised

AT Kuwait's Road Safety Society's weekly meeting the Deputy Chairman of the Society, Major General (retired) Yusuf Al Saad said that there were 190,000 traffic violations cited in 1986 and that 14,829 were referred to courts.

Sabah Al Rayes, the society's chairman, said that the General Traffic Department had finalised the new traffic draft law which increases the amount of fines for violations but neglects the issues of compulsory insurance, traffic accident investigation and the organisational structure of the traffic police.

Al Rayes criticised the compulsory insurance system saying that some motorists commit accidents knowing that the

insurance company will compensate for any damage resulting from the damage.

He requested that the organisational structure of the traffic police be reviewed, adding that traffic officers perform security and civil duties.

A lawyer, Ibrahim Al Athari said that stricter penalties were futile and that the solution to the traffic problem rested on the enforcement of the law and increased public awareness of traffic safety.

15 accidents

FIFTEEN traffic accidents were reported in Kuwait yesterday — one in Hawalli and 14 in Ahmadi.



HH the Amir is seen with King Fahd (left) and Sultan Qaboos (right) during side meetings at the Riyadh summit.



HH the Amir in a room of the new embassy building, with (from left): State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed, Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa and Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi.

Tunisian team discusses technical cooperation

A MEETING between the delegation representing the Tunisian Electricity and Gas Company and a number of officials of the Ministry of Electricity and Water was held yesterday.

An official source of the ministry told Kuna that discussions at the meeting dealt with aspects of technical cooperation and ways of developing relations in that

sector. The Tunisian delegation then left Kuwait after a few days visit to Kuwait during which a meeting was held with Minister of Electricity and Water Mohammed Abdul Moheem Al Rifai. The delegation toured a number of ministry establishments and got acquainted with the work progress there.

Child molester trapped

A FIVE-YEAR old child helped the police to trap an alleged child molester who had earlier invited the child to visit his flat with friends, promising they would have fun and a good time.

The child immediately went to the local police station and reported the proposition he had received, a local newspaper said. The station commander decided to lay a trap for the suspect with the help of the child and told the child to go with the man while the police kept watch.

The man came to the rendezvous and took the children to

his flat where a friend was waiting.

The police raided the flat shortly after the man and children entered, and arrested the man and his friend.

During the criminal court hearing, the man said he did not invite the child, but the child had propositioned him and that the friend was a new acquaintance.

The court found the man guilty but decided not to sentence him because of his clean record, a belief that he would lead a straight life and out of regard for his family.

The friend was acquitted.

Estimated telephone service revenue

ACCORDING to an official at Kuwait's Communications Ministry the ministry's revenue for October, 1987 totalled KD7.8 million and the total revenue for the fiscal year 1986-1987 from telephone service was estimated at KD67 million.

Seyassah newspaper reported that the ministry depends primarily on cutting telephone services as a means to collect overdue bills from subscribers. The ministry source said that there were 3,000 judgments issued in favour of the ministry on overdue accounts.

Cheese fit for consumption

ABU DHABI, Dec. 28, (Kuna): The authorities said today the local markets are completely free of hazardously contaminated French and Swiss brands of cheese.

Citing the results of laboratory tests, the federal secretariat of UAE municipalities said all brands of cheese on market shelves in the country were fit for human consumption.

Greek envoy

PUBLIC Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houli yesterday received at his office newly appointed Greek Ambassador to Kuwait.

The discussions between the two officials tackled means of enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Fingerprinting in evenings to discontinue

THE number of people coming for fingerprinting in the evenings had fallen considerably, according to an official at the fingerprinting department.

He said that fingerprinting in the evening, would therefore be discontinued.

People would be received during the morning at the department and at the personal identification department at Hawalli and Ahmadi and also at the Public Authority for Civil Information in Hawalli.

He said people should present a copy of their civil identification card to facilitate re-registration of their fingerprints.

Nouri receives Egyptian envoy

THE Minister of Education, Anwar Al Nouri yesterday received Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Salah Al Deen Hindawi.

During the meeting, they exchanged cordial talks. Al Nouri toured a number of educational areas.

The Minister was accompanied by Education Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khudari and assistant undersecretaries at the ministry.

Fly-over contract

KUWAIT'S Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houli signed a KD 12,299,000 contract with a local company to construct a two level fly-over above Al Istiqal highway and the First Ring road intersection.

The duration of the project is 1,250 days.

A framework for security cooperation

RIYADH, Dec. 28, (GNA): The Undersecretary of the Saudi Interior Ministry, Dr Ibrahim Al Awaji, said that the security strategy approved by the GCC leaders at the summit forms the basis of GCC security cooperation.

He told Al Riyadh newspaper that the security cooperation was progressing and was taking several forms, the most important of which was that this strategy would be an essential framework for security cooperation and all its aspects.

The security strategy embodies the presence of a

unified concept by GCC states because it creates an essential framework within which all GCC security agencies will work.

Regarding limiting the large number of expatriate workers in GCC states, Dr Al Awaji said this matter was attracting attention.

The large number of expatriates certainly influenced Gulf society, he added.

The undersecretary denied that the GCC states were working on a study of the situation of labourers and their classification, but added that it was high time this issue was studied.

New premises of Kuwaiti embassy in Riyadh opened

THE new premises of Kuwait's embassy in Riyadh was opened yesterday under the patronage of HH the Amir.

The ceremony was attended by the delegation accompanying the Amir and by local media men.

The Amir was received at the new building by Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Abdul Rahman Al Bakr, members of Kuwait's diplomatic mission in Riyadh and a number of Kuwait citizens, including students.

Honour
Al Bakr told the Seyassah newspaper reporters that it was a great honour that the Amir should attend the opening ceremony and expressed gratitude to the Amir for his fatherly concern and generous support.

He also thanked the Custodian of the two Holy Shrines, King Fahd, for his attention to members of the diplomatic corps.

Girl Guide camp

QAMARIYA Amin, the General Secretary of the Arab Girl Guides Society, said that 16 Girl Guides Societies representing 16 Arab countries will participate in the second Arab Girl Guides camp to be held from January 11 to 17, 1988, with the theme "With Loyalty and Friendship We Live in Peace".

The camp, to be patronised by Kuwait's Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri, will host 174 Girl Guides and 35 Guide leaders participating in training workshops and a variety of contests.

Gray meets Sheikh Hamad

MANAMA, Dec. 28, (AP): US Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Albert Gray arrived today and met Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Gulf news agency reported.

The Crown Prince is commander of Bahrain's Defence Force. The military's Chief of Staff, Gen. Khalifa Bin Ahmad Al Khalifa, also attended the meeting, the agency reported.

The US Navy spokesman in the Gulf was aboard a ship and unreachable for details on Gray's visit.

The commandant is expected to visit Marines involved in the American Navy escort activities in the Gulf. The Marines are administered under the department of the Navy.

American warships are in the Gulf region to protect US-flag shipping from attacks related to the Iran-Iraq war.

Pakistan deeply distressed

THE Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mohammed Khan Junejo, has said that the government and people of Pakistan were deeply distressed and outraged at the repression and terror against unarmed Palestinians unleashed by Israeli forces in the occupied Arab territories of the West Bank and Gaza.

The Security Council had rightly denounced Israel's brutal measures, and Pakistan urged determined follow-up action to ensure Israeli observance of the council's decisions.

He said that Pakistan will continue to collaborate with all fair-minded countries, especially Islamic ones, in support of the Palestinian struggle for the realisation of justice and peace.

Jordanian military team in Oman

MUSCAT, Dec. 28, (Kuna): Oman's Minister of State and Wali of Dhofar Sayyid Hilal Bin Sa'oud Bin Hareb received today the visiting delegation of the Jordanian Royal Military Academy led by Major-General Fawzi Obaydat, Oman News Agency reported.

The meeting covered cordial talks and issues of mutual interest to Oman and Jordan.

The meeting was attended by commander of the South Oman Brigade, Brigadier Majed Bin Zaher Al Ghafry and a number of officers from the Sultan of Oman's Army.

Khudari meets Syrian team

EDUCATION Ministry Undersecretary, Abdul Rahman Al Khudari yesterday received Syrian educational delegation which is currently visiting the country.

They exchanged cordial talks and reviewed bilateral relations particularly in educational fields.

Fatah meeting

ABU DHABI, Dec. 28, (Kuna): Daily Al Itihad newspaper said today that the Fatah Central Committee will hold an important meeting in Tunis Wednesday to set a date and place for the movement's next congress to be convened early next year.

The daily quoted Palestinian sources as saying that the meeting, to be presided over by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, will also review the uprising at the occupied territories, relations with Syria and the status of some PLO offices in a number of Arab states.

Indian Tourist Office hosts reception



Yugoslav embassy Second Secretary S. Jarchevich (left), A.N. Chaturvedi (second left), Air India Manager, P.R. Kanga (second right) and Indian embassy Counsellor, Alish Singh (right) seen at the reception.

INDIAN tourist officials in Kuwait hosted a dinner-reception on Sunday to say goodbye to the old year and herald in the new year. Travel agents, airline officials and those who promoted India as a tourist resort were invited to a 'thank you' reception by the Indian Tourist Office (ITO), Kuwait.

They also reviewed progress made in the West Asian travel market. The ITO, based in Kuwait, looks after the tourist markets in nearly all countries in the Arab and Gulf region.

Said ITO's Regional Director A.N. Chaturvedi: "Though tourist traffic rose only slightly, we see this is an enlargement of our market base." India, though a sought after destination in Saudi Arabia, is still to attract a larger number of Kuwaitis. This year,

tourist traffic from Kuwait to India rose by about 30 per cent. Some 4401 people travelled in January. The number was 3,755 in August this year.

A special guest at the reception was Anil Bhandari of the Hotel Corporation of India, which owns the Centaur chain of hotels. Bhandari presented a slide show to acquaint travel agents with the facilities on offer.

NHA plans to reduce waiting time



The office staff receiving citizens

THE head of the public service office at the National Housing Authority (NHA), Ahmad Al Daqbas, said yesterday that the office will post employees in remote areas such as Jahra and Dahar to facilitate completion of application forms.

He said the NHA had adopted modern methods to reduce the waiting time for completing applications.

The NHA was one of the first government establishments to implement the Civil Service Council's decision on setting up

public service offices. Citizens visiting the NHA will be received by special staff to help them in their affairs.

Al Daqbas said the office will place special boxes at cooperative societies to receive complaints and suggestions from citizens.

The office also organises open day meeting with the State Minister for Housing Affairs for citizens.

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هكذا من الأهل

RESULTS OF ARAB TIMES OPINION POLL

KTV 2 is terrible: viewer's verdict

AFTER a lot of work we are announcing the results of our poll about KTV 2, although KTV 2 will be far from pleased with what readers have to say about their programmes.

Before analysing the survey let us say a few words about the way we looked at the results. All replies were divided up by nationality so that we could see how different nationalities responded to the programmes. In fact, there was a remarkable sense of agreement between every nationality except one — the Filipinos. Everybody else, Kuwaitis, Arabs, Pakistanis, British, Indians, Americans, Europeans, Bangladeshis and Sri Lankans, all agree that KTV 2 is terrible.

This devastating result shows that KTV 2 has failed totally to provide the viewers with what they want to see. With such a multi-national audience one would expect that some viewers would be happy, others unhappy, for nearly everyone to agree that KTV 2 is so bad is a shocking indictment of KTV 2's incompetence and betrays a total lack of awareness of their audience.

We received a total of 388 replies from the following nationalities:

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Indians | 165 |
| British | 44 |
| Americans | 42 |
| Filipinos | 37 |
| Europeans | 32 |
| Pakistanis | 29 |
| Kuwaitis | 16 |
| Arabs | 13 |
| Bangladeshis | 5 |
| Sri Lankans | 5 |

Many of the viewer's comments cannot be printed in a family newspaper, but the general message was plain enough. Everybody seems to hate the local sports programmes, Volleyball, basketball and local football matches are very, very unpopular with every nationality and age group. Viewers aged 7 to 65 participated in the poll.

Another common complaint was the lack of announcements in English. We estimate there are well over a quarter of a million English speakers who do not know Arabic, and they would all like to know what is going on.

The News came in for some harsh criticism too. "An insult to our intelligence," "Not enough international news," "Caters to morons," these were just a few of the comments we received.

Stick to scheduled timings

Children's television was condemned as being far too limited. Given the superb range of children's programmes shown in the West, why does KTV continue to show endless cartoons? Why do they keep replacing children's shows with last minute local sports events? Parents want more educational shows for their kids and many of them are so angry at the rubbish that KTV puts out that they said they refuse to let their children watch.

Teenagers are also unhappy since they feel that there are no programmes for them whatsoever. Chart Attack, which was taken off some months ago, is the second most popular show KTV 2 has ever shown. Documentaries and animal shows are very unpopular too, not in themselves, it seems, but simply because there are too many of them. Sometimes it seems there are more shows about sharks than humans!

Timing
Another complaint was about the timings of KTV 2. Last minute changes make viewers very angry. "Stick to the scheduled timings," said one, another added, "Volleyball, basketball and local football should be on Channel One." "Sports are dreadful," said one angry



Falcon Crest: the most viewed show on KTV 2. Above: the Channings.

viewer, "Stop showing sports during kids' TV time," said another.

Old films are unpopular. "Too many old movies" one wrote — an idea which many people repeated. "Too many documentaries" was a common complaint. Perhaps the overall bitterness is best expressed by these comments:

"KTV 2 stinks!"
"KTV puts out the worst programmes in the world!"
"The present winter programmes are lousy!"

"Badly conceived, presented and produced, a travesty of TV viewing, pathetic!"
"Too much American junk!"

One of the most succinct comments came from a Kuwaiti who wrote: "Stop putting films on ants and flies at peak viewing time!" The sad thing is that we have a horrible suspicion that nothing will be done to take note of your comments and complaints. KTV seems to ignore all criticism, quite happy to go its own way with the attitude that "if you don't like what we do, don't watch." This arrogance is unacceptable in a modern society. People here work very hard, and for most of them TV is the main form of relaxation, so viewers are doubly disappointed and angry when the standards are so pathetically low.

Now let's look at the actual results of the poll.

Local sports unpopular

Question 1: We asked you to list your 10 favourite programmes in 1987, and although there was some difference in taste between nationalities, two clear favourites emerged with every group: Falcon Crest and Chart Attack. One or other of these topped every nationality's poll except for the Americans, who loved "L.A. Law," the British, who love "Open All Hours" and the Arabs whose favourite programme is the "Bill Cosby Show." Here are the top ten favourites:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1) Falcon Crest | 173 |
| 2) Chart Attack | 133 |
| 3) Moonlighting | 86 |
| 4) The Cosby Show | 76 |
| 5) Dempsey & Makepeace | 70 |
| 6) Sledgehammer | 69 |
| 7) Hitchcock Presents | 61 |
| 8) Growing Pains | 59 |
| 9) Miami Vice | 58 |

SOCIAL

Vienna Boys Choir
Vienna Boys Choir will give one performance at 8.00 pm on Jan 5 (Tuesday) in the Grand Ballroom at Kuwait Hilton Hotel. They will play a 40-minute piece by Johann Strauss — Tales from the Vienna Woods. They will also present excerpts from compositions by Franz Schubert, Peter Eben, Henry Purcell and Viadana and Benjamin Britten.

ASK Alumni Dinner
Friends and graduates of the American School, Kuwait, will hold an alumni dinner at Regency Palace Hotel on Jan 3. The Arabic buffet will begin at 8 pm. For details phone Mrs Suzy Jones 5314568.

ACT
Auditions for ACT's next production "An Evening of Absurdity" will be held on Dec



Sledgehammer: among top 10 favourites

Question Four: "Do you enjoy Cine Club?"

Yes 269
No 115
A nice vote of confidence for Farouk Abdul Aziz who has managed to get some really good films on KTV 2 in 1987 and fully deserves this support. However, a large percentage of viewers said they would enjoy it more if the commentary were in English.

Question Five: "In comparison with other Gulf English stations how would you rate KTV 2?"

Better 35
Same 104
Worse 249
A terrible criticism of KTV, made worse by the fact that of the 35 who voted that it was better, no less than 17 came from the Filipino community. "No Kuwaiti" said that it was better.
Question Six: "KTV has recently appointed new newscasters. How would you rate them?"
Excellent 15
Good 91



Viewers say there are too many sports shows on KTV 2

30 (Wednesday) from 7 to 9 pm. For further details and location call 5620332; 5725071.

Tareq Rajab Museum
The museum has been closed for renovation. It reopens at the end of January and will display manuscripts, ceramics and textiles.

HOTELS

At the Hilton
Enjoy a slice of Christmas Stollen or a wedge of Irish Coffee Cake, the cake of the week, in La Patisserie. Christmas logs, stollens and cakes are also available. La Patisserie is open daily from 10 am to 10.45 pm.

At the Meridien
Special lunch and dinner menus will be offered this week at all the outlets. Versailles, La Brasserie and at Remy and Tony's Jam session enjoy toasting music on Thursday. Family fun on Friday in La



No more films on 'ants and flies', please.

Fair 171
Poor 108
We didn't dare ask what you think about the old ones.

Question Seven: "Do you enjoy local sports matches televised on KTV 2?"
Yes 60
No 323
'Stop putting films on ants and flies'

Quite a few of you added remarks to underline just how strongly you feel about this issue. Interestingly enough, even the Kuwaitis voted 10 to six against local sport on KTV 2.

Question Eight: "Would you like to see more local programmes?"
Yes 109
No 280
Poor old "Weekend", again, over a quarter of their supporters were Filipinos, even the Kuwaitis voted three to one against any more local shows!

Please bear in mind that some people didn't answer all of the questions, so the figures do not always add up to the same total. We've seen that the vast majority of you do not have a high opinion of KTV 2.

To improve KTV 2 several people suggested that a separate sports channel be set up so that the local sports programmes wouldn't interfere with regular viewing.

Too much American junk!

Apart from the desperate plea for announcements in English, many people asked for a more professional attitude. This means sticking to the published schedule, not letting programmes be replaced at the last minute, not pulling out popular shows after three or four episodes — a recent example: McGyver. It is interesting that the most popular show, Falcon Crest, has been on KTV 2 for a long time now, perhaps that's why it got so many votes.

In general, the amateur, slipshod attitude of KTV 2 has made viewers very angry. If the majority of viewers think KTV 2 is the worst in the Gulf, isn't it about time that something was done about it?

KTV 2 is welcome to come and verify the results of our poll and see for themselves why they urgently need to review their policy, and polish up KTV 2. After all, they are putting in a lot of funds to buy shows. Why does KTV 2 buy outdated documentaries and rejected American shows?

At the Holiday Inn
Pastries, stollens and logs for the festive season and New Year are available at the Lobby Lounge. Lunch featuring seasonal food will be offered at the Coffee Shop, Al Dana and Al Andalus. For details contact the hotel.

At the Ramada Al Salam
Special children's brunch parties will be held every Friday from January 1 in El Bender. Lots of fun and games will be provided from 12 noon to 3 pm.

At the Sheraton
Al Hamra features a special buffet dinner of Dec 31 and a special lunch buffet on Jan. 1. Hunt Room will offer a special dinner buffet on Thursday night; music by the Paradise Trio. Riccardo features an a la carte menu and Le Tarhouche will feature special lunch and dinner buffet on Thursday and Friday.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 2.15 Holy Quran | 11.30 News Summary |
| 2.30 World News via Satellite | 11.35 World News via Satellite |
| 3.30 Hakam Al Aqdam: cartoon serial | 12.15 Holy Quran/Closedown |
| 4.00 News Summary | |
| 4.05 World News via Satellite | |
| 4.45 La Ilaha Illallah: historical serial, featuring Yusuf Shabuan, Raghdah, Hala Fakher | |
| 5.15 Al Manahil: children's serial, starring Ahmad Qawadani, Tayseer Attiya | |
| 5.45 Documentary | |
| 6.15 You and Your Health: local programme | |
| 7.00 News Summary | |
| 7.15 Afaq Al Fann: Art Horizons | |
| 8.00 Hadoth Al Usbooh: religious talk by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar | |
| 8.15 Good Evening and Local news | |
| 9.00 News in Arabic | |
| 9.50 Ghaddan Tadaq Al Ajras: last episode, starring Salah | |

KTV 2

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 6.00 Holy Quran | 8.00 News in English |
| 6.10 The Enchanted House: cartoons | 8.40 You and the Law |
| 6.30 The New Animal World: a look at zebras, whales, Arabian oryx and leopards | 8.50 Bridges to Cross |
| 7.00 For the Record: "Ready for Slaughter." Heavy mortgages spell the doom of Will Hackett. Will the system fail him and many others like him?" | |

"Look Up to Me." A man on bail is hired by the newspaper group. But things don't work out the way they are expected to.

9.30 Mary: "Little Jo." Jo becomes hostile to her parents after they tell her they are visiting Chicago.

10.00 Cine Club: "Bear Island." Muddled melodrama about a US meteorological team which lands on a barren Arctic island, which once housed a German submarine base and a case of gold. Directed by Don Sharpe [1979]. Starring Vanessa Redgrave, Donald Sutherland, Christopher Lee, Lloyd Bridges. Duration: 118 minutes.

12.00 Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

Urdu

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1900 Opening Holy Quran | 23.00-24.00 Easy listening |
| 1910 Behereen Qaul | 24.00-02.00 Instrumental listening |
| 1920 Songs | |
| 1930 Press Report | |
| 1940 Radio Club | |
| 2000 News in Urdu | |
| 2020 Songs | |
| 2040 Jahan Numa | |
| 2100 Closedown | |

FM Services

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 08.00-08.30 Easy listening | 09.00 World News |
| 08.30-08.45 News | 09.05 News about Britain |
| 08.45-09.00 Easy listening | 15 Radio Newcastle |
| 09.00-09.15 Songs and Music | 30 From the Proms |
| 09.15-09.30 News | 0100 News summary followed by Outlook |
| 10.00-10.15 Easy listening | 30 Short Story |
| 10.15-10.30 Songs and Music | 45 A future for the Past |
| 10.30-10.45 News | 0200 World News |
| 11.00-11.15 Easy listening | 09 British Press Review |
| 11.15-11.30 Classical music | 15 Network UK |
| 16.00-17.00 Easy listening | 30 Sports International |
| | 0300 World News |

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Dubai Pharmacy
Souk Waqar, Algiers St.
Al Omar Pharmacy
Awkal Bldg., Mubarak Al Kabir St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Khayr Pharmacy
Rihab Complex, Tunis St.
Salmiya and Rasmithiya
Al Sahana Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahad and Ahmad
Abu Halifa Pharmacy
Coast Road, Opp. Abu Halifa School
New Khalifa
Al Fahad Pharmacy
New Khalifa suburb
Jabra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Mataf St.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Rage of Honour
Starring: Jerry Gabon
Al Salmiya
Little Shop of Horrors
Starring: Bill Murray, Ellen Green
Al Hamra
La'nat Al Mual (Arabic)
Starring: Hatem Zulfikar, Iman, Yusuf Shabuan
Drive-In
Wa Yabqa Al Hub (Arabic)
Starring: Farid Shawki, Suhair Ramzi, Fuad Hussein

Dungeon Master
Al Jalil
Naag Purnima (Bengali)
Grassada
Pamimhan (Malayalam)
Sulabikha
Force of Shaolin Boxer
Al Jebel
Madhu Maloti (Bengali)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Wa Yabqa Al Hub (Arabic)
Starring: Farid Shawki, Suhair Ramzi, Fuad Hussein

PRAYERS

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Fajr | 5.14 am |
| Zuhr | 11.48 |
| Asr | 2.38 pm |
| Maghreb | 4.59 |
| Isha | 6.20 |

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WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Iwan Gallery
A collection of paintings by six Iraqi artists is being shown at the Iwan Gallery, Zahra Complex. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm, until Jan 12.

FILMS

Indian Film Festival
Guru Dutt's 'Kagaz Ke Phool' an experimental film, will be shown tonight at 7.30 pm at the auditorium of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The film stars Guru Dutt and Waheeda Rehman. Children are not admitted. For further details contact the Cine Club, near Indian Embassy, Bneid Al Qar.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

DEATH is a very dull, dreary affair, and my advice to you is to have nothing whatever to do with it — W. Somerset Maugham, English writer (1874-1965).

Who is afraid of Brizola? Everyone

By Peter Muello

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil. (AP) A popular label button in Rio reads, "Who's afraid of Brizola?"

The answer could include members of the armed forces, bankers, businessmen, rich people, the middle class, the right and left.

But his critics and supporters agree that Leonel Brizola, an old-style populist and state governor often called the "Caudillo," or strongman, is a strong contender to succeed President Jose Sarney in elections that could be held next year.

Brizola's importance has grown in recent months as economic and political troubles have mounted for Sarney, who in 1985 became Brazil's first civilian president in 21 years. Congress is now rewriting the constitution and has indicated it may force elections next year, in which Sarney would be ineligible to succeed himself.

"He (Brizola) is the great spectre of the election," the *Jornal do Brasil* said in a recent profile of presidential contenders. All the other parties and candidates are working on how to defeat Brizola, the newspaper said.

Speculation
Conservative Rep. Guilherme Afif Domingos said: "His candidacy is one feared by various sectors. Frankly, because of Brizola, many people want to postpone the elections."

There is even speculation that if Brizola is elected, the conservative armed forces would stage a coup to topple him. The concern might seem excessive for this 65-year-old self-styled socialist, who holds no elective office and whose party, the small Democratic Labor Party, was hurt by losses in last year's national elections and by the defection of prominent members.

"Those worries are exaggerated. I try to conduct myself correctly. The armed forces had an exemplary role in Brazil's transition to democratic rule. I want their support," Brizola said in an interview.

The left is afraid of Brizola, fearing he may take votes away from more ideologically based leftist parties — including the socialist and communist parties. Leftists don't trust what they see

as Brizola's cult of personality and willingness to make political deals.

There is little question that Brizola by himself is a political force, using personal charm and brilliant oratory to appeal directly to the working man. In many ways he recalls his mentor, the former populist President and dictator Getulio Vargas.

He attacks the right and the left — and makes alliances with both. He is thought to be anathema to the military, but meets regularly with ex-president Gen. Joao Figueredo. He condemns US "imperialism" but says he admires the American people.

Voters love him or hate him but rarely are indifferent. A recent newspaper poll showed Brizola led a field of presidential hopefuls with 8.5 per cent of those polled, more than twice the number of the second-place finisher.

But at the same time he received the highest negative rating — 48 per cent of those interviewed said they wouldn't vote for him under any circumstances.

The poll listed 14 candidates who received from 0.6 per cent of the votes to Brizola's 8.5 per cent. Just over 63 per cent of those interviewed were undecided.

The other top candidates include Orestes Quercia, governor of Sao Paulo, Brazil's richest and most populous state; Rep. Ulysses Guimarães, president of the ruling Democratic Movement Party; and Dilson Funaro, former finance minister and creator of the Cruzado plan, a failed anti-inflation programme.

Some critics say Brizola's rhetoric will scare off foreign investment and loans, and that he favours the poor slum-dwellers — and slum-based underworld bosses — at the expense of the middle class.

"Brizola makes people edgy because he has no obligations to the right nor to the left," said former Rio de Janeiro Mayor Marcelo Alencar of the Democratic Labour Party, of which Brizola is president.

Brizola entered politics at a young age. The son of farm workers in the far southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, he left home at 12 and went to the state capital of Porto Alegre, where he eventually earned an engineering degree and was elected assemblyman, congressman and governor.

Leaving the scene in East Europe

By David Lewis

VIENNA. (Reuters). Western diplomats are speculating that Gustav Husak, who quit as Czechoslovak Communist Party leader, may be followed into decline by other East European leaders almost a generation older than Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev.

"The question is: will there be a 'domino effect' after the resignation of the first East European leader to relinquish power voluntarily?"

One diplomat in Warsaw said he believed the Soviet Union had been pressing for the older leaders like Husak, Hungary's Janos Kadar and East Germany's Erich Honecker to leave the scene since Gorbachev came to power.

"It's been clear from the beginning that Gorbachev regards them as belonging to a quite different political era and as people with whom he is not quite comfortable," the diplomat said.

Speculation
"My conclusion is that the new Soviet leadership decided how to manage all this some time ago and the process of change has been set in hand."

A diplomat in Sofia said it was quite justified to speculate about a domino effect, adding: "It had to start somewhere. How far it will go, we don't know."

In Hungary, there have long been rumours that 75-year-old Kadar — installed in power after Soviet tanks crushed an anti-communist rising in 1956 — could step down before the next party congress in 1990.

"I think it will add to pressure already building here for the old man to go," one senior Western diplomat said from Budapest. "This might indeed add fuel to that tendency."

In Bulgaria, 76-year-old Todor Zhivkov has been in power for nearly 34 years. He's

kept to a winning formula: keep right in with Moscow but get as good as a deal as possible for the people," was the verdict of one Western diplomat in Sofia.

Zhivkov has embraced Soviet-style reforms, though the movement seems to have receded in recent months after a time when he appeared to be "out-Gorbachev Gorbachev."

"He is a very fit, healthy and lively man. A domino theory would be unlikely here," said another Sofia diplomat.

Zhivkov seems to be firmly in the saddle, said a third. But he noted that personnel changes could be made at a special party congress called for Jan 28.

East Germany has been led by Erich Honecker, now 75, since 1971. The Warsaw diplomat said Gorbachev has pressed him to resign but that Honecker had refused.

Robust
In East Berlin, a Western diplomat said:

"Honecker is in pretty robust health and his position within the Politburo seems very strong. That is not to say things cannot change rapidly, but we see no sign of it at the moment."

Romania under Nicolae Ceausescu, 70 next month, won sympathy in the West in the 1960s and 1970s for showing resistance to political domination by the Soviet Union.

But harsh domestic policies and economic failures have since tainted his reputation and mass demonstrations in the past few weeks have included shouts of "down with the dictator!"

Said the Budapest diplomat: "There's a good chance that another domino might roll in Romania."

Poland, under Wojciech Jaruzelski who crushed the Solidarity labour movement, is a special case. At 64, he is the youngest Warsaw Pact leader apart from Gorbachev, and diplomats say he appears to enjoy the favour of the Soviet leader.



Rajiv: hard time

By T.S.K. Lingam

NEW DELHI. (UPI): Indians will remember 1987 as the year Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi lost his "Mr Clean" image and learned the hard lessons of politics.

Confronted by scandals involving alleged high-level corruption, a string of state election defeats, dissent within his ruling Congress (I) party and criticism over his leadership style, the 42-year-old prime minister saw much of his power base dissolve.

Add to that the failure of the annual monsoon rains, which brought the worst drought of the century, and in northern Punjab state, the bloodiest year since Sikh extremists began their independence campaign in 1983, and a picture develops of a young leader running a gauntlet of crises.

However, analysts say the series of crises has strengthened Rajiv's resolve and he has started displaying some of the tenacity that has kept his family in control of India for most of the 40 years since achieving independence from Britain in 1947.

In January, he was still riding on the crest of a two-year wave of popularity created when he took

Tensions with Pakistan nearly sparked the fourth war between the two arch-rivals following border military buildups in February and relations with Beijing were strained by mutual charges of hostile troop movements and border violations.

Even Rajiv's apparent success in signing the Indo-Sri Lanka accord to end the Indian Ocean island's ethnic war was blunted after hundreds died in heavy combat when Indian troops moved to disarm Tamil guerrillas.

Tenacity
However, analysts say the series of crises has strengthened Rajiv's resolve and he has started displaying some of the tenacity that has kept his family in control of India for most of the 40 years since achieving independence from Britain in 1947.

In January, he was still riding on the crest of a two-year wave of popularity created when he took

Scandals, controversies, turmoil . . . Indian Prime Minister in trouble

Rajiv loses 'Mr. Clean' image and learns hard lessons of politics

power after the Oct 31, 1984 assassination of his mother and predecessor, Indira Gandhi.

Rajiv assumed her mantle — bolstering his position with a landslide general election victory two months later — and continued the reign of a dynasty that began with India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajiv's grandfather.

Useless
People voiced unparalleled support for Rajiv's party and government largely because they perceived him to be an honest and capable prime minister who would lead India into the 21st century. They dubbed him "Mr Clean."

That image began to fade with the government's helplessness in the face of an upsurge in violence by Sikh extremists fighting to turn northern Punjab into the independent Sikh nation of "Khalistan."

A peace accord Rajiv signed in

July 1985 with moderate Sikhs is now a dead letter and the government has opened new political initiatives to solve the problem. At the same time, more than 800 people have died in extremist violence in the state this year.

"If Rajiv can speak to the Tamil, why can't he speak to the Sikh extremists," said Khushwant Singh, a noted Sikh historian and former member of Parliament.

But Rajiv's real test at managing the world's largest democracy came in a complex series of scandals that unfolded throughout the year.

The controversies began in January when then-Finance Minister V.P. Singh launched raids against tax evaders and hired an American detective agency to investigate illegal foreign currency holdings of prominent Indians.

Amid reports that Singh's actions were unsettling some of

India's key powerbrokers, Rajiv took over the finance portfolio and abruptly transferred Singh to head the Defence Ministry.

Singh then started an inquiry into bribes paid in the purchase of four West German submarines. Congress (I) party members alleged Singh had moved only to enhance his position at Rajiv's expense.

The minister resigned and formed an opposition grouping with other dissident Congress (I) leaders who were dissatisfied with what they said was Rajiv's imperious style of leadership.

Bofors
Next came revelations that Sweden's Bofors company paid massive kickbacks in the 1985 purchase of a field artillery system, sparking opposition demands for Rajiv's resignation and stinging criticism in the press.

There is no proof linking Rajiv to any of the corruption, but a

perception has lingered that he did not relentlessly pursue the offenders and played soft on his friends.

Rajiv also became embroiled in a running feud with then-President Zail Singh, who charged that the prime minister failed to fulfill his constitutional duties and then lied about it to parliament.

"That accusation," by the President dealt a serious blow to Rajiv's image," said Khushwant Singh.

Analysts said that by mid-1987, Rajiv appeared desperate, needing only one more scandal or electoral defeat to lose office.

Meanwhile, the century's worst drought shook the economy, and the middle class and businessmen were taken aback by some of Rajiv's moves as finance minister that echoed policies of his mother and retreated his stated objectives of deregulation.

No precedent in the last 60 years of Bolshevik rule

A literary and cultural revival in Soviet Russia

By Paul Quinn-Judge

MOSCOW. Mikhail Gorbachev's 33 months in power have produced one lasting achievement: a literary and cultural revival that many Soviet observers feel has no precedent in the last 60 years of Soviet rule.

The literary revival has been accompanied by a new tolerance with regard to political and economic discussion. This has, for example, allowed an economist to express doubt that any reforms would make the present system work better, and a political observer to justify what official ideologists consider the unjustifiable — opposition within a socialist state.

The revival is part of a conscious effort by the Soviet leaders to mobilise intellectuals behind reform. So far, Gorbachev has been successful.

In the first stage of perestroika (restructuring), intellectuals have set the pace in the reform debate. They have led the attack on corrupt, incompetent and conservative Communist Party officials. They have urged the re-examination of the most controversial periods of Soviet history, such as agricultural collectivisation and Joseph Stalin's purges.

But in some areas they have pushed further than the leadership is prepared to go. In the next stage of reform, the leadership will need intellectuals, but for a different task: achieving the technological breakthrough that will make the Soviet Union a leading industrial power. But during that period — a complex and possibly confused time of key economic and social changes — the Kremlin may feel the need to stress unity over diversity.

Already some intellectuals say they feel a chill in the intellectual atmosphere, partly from a relatively low-key Gorbachev speech on Nov 2 which assessed Soviet history, partly from the dismissal of Moscow party chief Boris Yeltsin on Nov 11.

Despite this, the changes that have taken place in poetry and

COMRADES — NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV USHERED IN THE WINDS OF CHANGE



HE MET STIFF RESISTANCE AND WAS DRIVEN INTO DISGRACE



TODAY, NEARLY 25 YEARS LATER, I WANT TO REHABILITATE HIS NAME



I HOPE SOMEONE WILL DO THE SAME FOR ME



prose over the last two years are so great that, as literary specialist Nikolai Anastasyev says: "We will have to completely revise our concept of Soviet literature."

Works by some of the century's finest writers — Andrei Platonov, Anna Akhmatova, Mikhail Bulgakov — have been published for the first time after delays of up to 60 years. Other disgraced or ignored writers — satirist Mikhail Zoshchenko, poets Osip Mandelstam (who died in a labour camp in 1938), Marina Tsvetayeva (who committed suicide in 1941), and Nikolai Gumilev (accused of plotting against the regime, and shot in 1921), for example — have been republished.

Emerging writers like Vladimir Nabokov and 1987 Nobel prize winner Joseph Brodsky are being published and praised. The past two years have seen a flood of long-suppressed works by living

authors and filmmakers. And in art, Marc Chagall finally received official recognition with a major exhibit in Moscow this fall.

Radical intellectuals say, however, that the attitudes of top Soviet leaders to cultural changes are beginning to diverge sharply. A year ago several prominent writers agreed that Gorbachev and second-ranking leader Yegor Ligachev were together on cultural policy. Today the same people view Ligachev and Viktor Chebrikov, the chief of the KGB (Soviet secret police), as distinctly more conservative than Gorbachev.

Concern
Ligachev has expressed concern on the debate over history. Recent articles on the Stalinist era have made the 1930s (the period of collectivisation and purges) even more confused than it used to be, he complained in

August. And while leading writers like Anatoly Pristavkin want to discuss the social damage of the Leonid Brezhnev era (1964-82), Ligachev has spoken out passionately in defence of the achievements of the 1970s.

The changing attitude of the leadership has been mirrored in the literary world. Some of the first public warnings of an impending social crisis came in literature.

Valentin Rasputin's "The Fire" was published in July 1985, just four months after Gorbachev was elected party leader. Viktor Astafyev's "The Sad Detective" appeared in January 1986. Both works depict communities on the verge of social disintegration. Both men are on the conservative end of the spectrum of Russian writers.

They are associated with a loose group of authors known as the "village writers", some of

whom have had contacts with Ligachev. Both Rasputin and Astafyev have since become critical of the direction perestroika is taking.

The reaction of other conservative writers has been virulent. One, Peter Proskurin, has called publication of the works of long-dead writers "necrophilia." His comments were published in the Communist Party daily Pravda. Much of the conservatives' wrath has been directed against the major literary journals.

These have been the driving force in creating a new atmosphere of openness. Three stand out — the monthlies *Novy Mir* and *Znamya*, and the weekly mass-circulation *Ogonyok*.

The nomination of new editors to these three journals was "the most significant achievement of perestroika so far," says Yuri Arakcheyev, a prominent writer. Sergei Zalygin, who is not a party member, became head of *Novy Mir*. Grigory Baklanov took over *Znamya*. And Vitaly Korotich was named editor of *Ogonyok*, a lowbrow and nearly moribund weekly.

Role
Novy Mir and *Znamya* have between them changed the face of contemporary Russian literature. Among the works published for the first time this year are Andrei Platonov's "The Foundation Pit," written in 1930 and suppressed here ever since (Novy Mir, June), and Mikhail Bulgakov's "Heart of a Dog," written in 1925 (*Znamya*, June). Next year, Yevgeny Zamiatin's devastating attack on totalitarianism, "We," is scheduled to be published by *Znamya*. Written in 1921, it is described in Soviet reference works as an expression of hostility toward socialism. *Novy Mir* has announced the publication of Boris Pasternak's "Doctor Zhivago." It has also published a series of major works by living writers like Mr. Pristavkin, Mr. Arakcheyev, and Andrei Bitov.

Ogonyok's role has been unique. *Novy Mir* and *Znamya* have circulations of 495,000 and 280,000, respectively. Ogonyok, with a 1.5 million circulation, has been in the forefront of discussing Stalin. It has carried some of the most striking — and grim — reporting on the Soviet war in Afghanistan.

Both Greco and Santapaola were killed in the "commando" which led Dalla Chiesa with Kalashnikov automatic rifles as he drove with his wife to a restaurant.

Despite the warnings of police and magistrates against too much euphoria over the trial verdict, it marked a watershed in Italy's centuries-old fight against the Mafia and had a major symbolic significance.

Gap between rich and poor widens

LONDON, Dec 28. (Kuna): The gap between rich and poor in Britain has widened in the last four years, according to new research by the Trade Union Council (TUC) today.

Britain's higher-paid workers were now earning three times as much as low-paid manual workers, the overall body of the British trade unions said.

Office and professional staff had gained increases above the average, but some manual workers were only one per cent better off.

"Britain is becoming a much more unequal society, with the gap between rich and poor progressively increasing," the TUC research found.

Mafia is still a dangerous force in Italy

By Barry Moody

PALERMO, Sicily. (Reuters): The Italian state has scored its most devastating victory against the Mafia by jailing more than 300 gangsters, but magistrates and police say the criminal society is still a dangerous force without revamped leadership.

A Palermo court has handed down 19 life sentences on Sicilian mobsters, including seven members of the Mafia's ruling "commission", and sentenced 319 others to a total of 2,700 years in jail.

Italian newspapers spoke euphorically of the "decapitation" of the criminal society. But the Mafia quickly and arrogantly showed it was no spent force with a coldly efficient killing only hours after the verdict.

Signal

Police said Antonino Ciulla, 35, was shot nine times by three or four professional hit-men as he stepped out of a car carrying a box of cakes for a celebration of his acquittal at the mass trial. He had been released from jail just over an hour before.

Some reports suggested Ciulla's killing signalled the start of a new Mafia "war of succession" after the jailing of several top leaders. But some inves-

tigators argued against this, saying Ciulla belonged to a Mafia clan believed to be in decline.

The recent verdict was by far the most severe legal blow ever against the Mafia.

Among those jailed for life was "boss of bosses" Michele "the Pope" Greco, 63, whom top informer Tommaso Buscetta and investigators identified as the head of the "commission".

Several others big bosses and some of the Mafia's most feared killers were also jailed for life but eight of them are still on the run.

Magistrates and police warned that the trial was not a final victory and said the Mafia was far from beaten.

Top anti-Mafia magistrate Giovanni Falcone, who "confessed" Buscetta, told reporters: "We should not fool ourselves that this verdict is a decisive blow. It is a starting point."

Giuseppe Ayala, one of the trial prosecutors, said: "This is an important stage on a very long road."

One of Palermo's top police officers, who asked not to be identified, said: "The trial has undoubtedly done major damage to the Mafia but it is a battle not the war."

Magistrates point out that the trial dealt with a period ending

1983, after a bloody Mafia war in which up to 600 people were killed.

Buscetta for the first time broke the Mafia's code of silence or "omertà" on a large scale, giving unprecedented insights into the inner workings of the criminal society.

But police and magistrates admit that their knowledge is now out of date and they do not know with any precision who is running the Mafia.

They believe jailed leaders like Greco himself and Luciano Liggio, boss of the "Corleonesi", the Mafia's most powerful clan, have lost most of their power to the men on the outside.

The Palermo police officer said those members of the commission still at large were likely now to be important bosses.

They include the Mafia's most feared killer, Pino Greco, who was convicted of 38 murders, and Nitto Santapaola, leader of the Mafia in the east Sicilian town of Catania.

Symbolic
Their clan was given the commission to carry out the Mafia's most notorious crime, the 1982 murder of Palermo prefect and Carabinieri police hero Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, his young wife and their bodyguards.

V. P. Singh: limelight

perception has lingered that he did not relentlessly pursue the offenders and played soft on his friends.

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Analysts said that by mid-1987, Rajiv appeared desperate, needing only one more scandal or electoral defeat to lose office.

Meanwhile, the century's worst drought shook the economy, and the middle class and businessmen were taken aback by some of Rajiv's moves as finance minister that echoed policies of his mother and retreated his stated objectives of deregulation.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1170 — Archbishop Thomas Becket is slain at altar in Cathedral of Canterbury, England.
- 1503 — Spanish complete conquest of Naples.
- 1680 — England's Lord Stafford is executed for treason.
- 1721 — French occupy Mauritius and call it Ile de France.
- 1789 — Tipoo of Mysore attacks rajah of Travancore, India.
- 1797 — French capture Mayence, France, from Holy Roman Empire forces.
- 1855 — Austria issues war ultimatum to Russia.
- 1857 — British and French forces take Canton in China.
- 1895 — L. Starr Jameson stages raid into Transvaal from Bechuanaland in South Africa.
- 1921 — United States, Britain, France, Italy and Japan sign Washington treaty to limit naval armaments.
- 1933 — Premier Ion Duca of Romania is slain by Iron Guard.
- 1934 — Japan renounces Washington naval treaty limiting naval armaments.
- 1940 — German bombers, during World War II, inflict greatest damage on London, England, since Great Fire of 1666.
- 1962 — United Nations troops occupy Elizabethville, Katanga.
- 1965 — Independence for Bechuanaland is announced.
- 1973 — Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos ends his elected term and begins to rule on basis of a takeover decree.
- 1986 — Thousands of activists led by students from Peking Teachers' University defy ban on unauthorised demonstrations and march through snowy streets of Peking.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Economic climate stormy in 1987, outlook cloudy for 1988

Stock markets around the world still reeling

NEW YORK, Dec 28, (AP): A big, black-question mark hung over the world economy as 1987 ended, with stock markets around the world still reeling from the October crash on Wall Street.

Could this be a rerun of the October 1929 crash — the forerunner of a worldwide great depression like the 1930s?

Economists noted some similarities, particularly pressures for trade protectionism. After stocks fell in 1929, nations raised trade barriers in an effort to protect themselves.

But the actual state of world business in late 1987 showed no sign of irreparable damage — despite the stock market crash, continued Third World debt, lower commodity prices, US budget and trade deficits and other problems such as an oil market that remained depressed despite a partial recovery from its 1986 plunge.

Crash
Many world stock markets appeared to be ending the year above their level on Jan 1, 1987, even after the October crash.

In 1987 major western banks wrote off billions of dollars of their Third World loans and posted lower earnings, but no big banks went under.

European and Asian leaders pledged closer cooperation with the United States in an effort to ease trade tensions and control currencies. And in contrast to the 1930s, when half of American banks failed, Duff and Phelps Inc., a Chicago-based financial consulting firm, predicted that US banks profits in 1988 will grow despite the Oct 19 stock market collapse.

Indeed, the crash may have been a blessing in disguise, said former US Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul A. Volcker, by forcing policymakers to address long-range economic problems such as US budget and trade deficits.

Given proper policies and international cooperation, Volcker said, "there is no reason that the economy can't go on and expand, that inflation be held in

check and that we could have an extended period of growth."

The United States, with foreign help, let the dollar slide toward year's end, hoping to ease the US trade deficit. But expressing the views of many nations, Hans Tietmeyer, a state secretary in West Germany's Finance Ministry, warned it is "extremely dangerous to believe that world economic imbalances can be evened out by letting the dollar swing down too far."

A year-end look at financial developments around the world:

The United States
In 1987, President Ronald Reagan, a vigorous free trade advocate, promised to veto any protectionist US trade legislation. But even Reagan was taking trade reprisals against Japan, Brazil and other countries.

Reagan also negotiated with Congress to cut the US budget deficit, a financial black hole that had helped turn the United States from the world's biggest creditor nation into the world's biggest debtor. But the proposed \$30-billion reduction made only a dent in the \$150-billion federal deficit for the fiscal year that ends Sept 30, 1988.

Meanwhile, Japanese and Western European leaders collaborated with the Reagan administration to reduce the US trade deficit by pushing the American dollar down against other currencies.

Even so, the trade gap remained stubbornly agape at \$157 billion and even widened toward year-end. Economists feared a repetition in coming years of another feature of the 1930s depression — a succession of competitive devaluations, with each country trying to grab a bigger slice of the shrinking world trade pie.

Survey
A survey released in December by an American firm, the Decision Research Corp., found that 25 per cent of Americans believe the United States is very likely to encounter another economic depression.

The survey said continuing instability in the nation's finan-

cial markets was affecting Americans' buying habits. A downturn in consumer buying, particularly as the Christmas season approached, could have a depressing effect on the US economy overall. But the US economy seemed likely to meet the Reagan administration's goal of 3.2 per cent growth in 1988.

West Europe
The major West European economies grew more sluggishly in 1987 than in 1986. The falling dollar flattened exports, while spurring imports.

According to DRI Europe, a private forecasting firm in London, West Germany's economy grew by 1.4 per cent in 1987 vs. 2.4 per cent in 1986; France's, by 1.8 per cent vs. 2.0 per cent; Britain's by 3.8 per cent vs. 3.1 per cent; and Italy's by 2.2 per cent vs. 2.8 per cent.

The average European inflation rate climbed over 3 per cent because of rebounding oil prices, and unemployment rates remained in double digits.

Britain held centre stage again in 1987 with the fastest growth. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's tight-fisted spending policies also resulted in a negligible budget deficit, making her country a model of fiscal prudence.

Italy claimed to have overtaken Britain as the non-communist world's fifth-richest country in 1987, but there was concern at year's end that inflation was rising. Italian exports took a battering from increased labour costs and the fall of the dollar.

West Germany, Europe's largest economy, was responding to pressure from its trading partners to stimulate its growth as a way of promoting world financial stability.

The 12-nation European Economic Community failed at a December meeting in Copenhagen to settle a farm spending dispute and entered 1988 with a full-blown budget crisis — widely considered the most serious in the EEC's 30-year history.

Asia

Asia's economic picture in 1987 was dominated by the Japanese yen's climb against the dollar, which fuelled changes ranging from record jobless rates in Japan to soaring exports from the newly industrialised Asian countries.

Japan began to change from an export-reliant economy to one marked by growing domestic demand. Total export volume was down 2 per cent in the first three quarters of 1987, while imports were 17.3 per cent higher.

The yen's rise curbed the competitiveness of Japanese goods overseas and hit exporters with lower profits, production and investment. Unemployment reached a record 3.2 per cent in May. Economic growth was projected at 3.5 per cent in fiscal 1987, which ends next March.

Growth estimates for Asia's newly industrialised "little dragons" — South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore — ranged from Singapore's 7 per cent to 11-12 per cent for the remaining three.

Malaysia and the Philippines complained about US discrimination against their exports of palm and coconut oils. The United States also drastically curtailed imports of sugar, a major export of the Philippines and other Asian nations.

Latin America

Countries in Latin America, who are responsible for a large portion of the Third World's debt of more than \$1 trillion complained anew in 1987 that they can never pay their foreign loans if a rising tide of protectionism in the industrial countries keeps their export goods out of world markets.

Debtor nations worldwide obtained some relief through the plunging US dollar, since many of their foreign debts were payable in dollars. The oil importing debtor nations like Brazil were also helped by low oil prices while the oil exporters like Mexico were hurt.

But the basic problem

remained: a net outflow of money to pay interest on debts rather than the inflow of capital they needed.

Argentina, Brazil and Mexico, the Third World's three biggest debtors, now owe a total of more than \$260 billion, and formed a group of debtor nations known as G3.

"Latin America is the only region in the world with visible setbacks. Other continents continued to progress; we have not advanced," said Brazilian President Jose Sarney.

Eight Latin American presidents met in Acapulco to discuss their common problems in late November, and called on international lending agencies to loosen their purse strings and limit interest rates.

In 1987, Africa saw the prices of its commodities, such as cocoa and coffee, and the value of its currencies continue an unrelenting slide while its debt grew.

At year's end, the 50 members of the Organisation of African Unity held an emergency summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss the continent's collective debt of \$200 billion.

Most African states spent 40 per cent of their export earnings just to pay the interest on loans. Some nations, especially in West Africa, attempted to strengthen their economies by privatisation of some firms previously owned by the state.

The OAU conference cobbled together a plan it hoped to sell to creditors, proposing an international conference on African debt sometime in 1988.

"Nobody in the developed countries wants to see African children starve because we have to pay debts," said Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, the OAU chairman.

The South African economy was hard hit by international economic sanctions imposed because of the white minority government's racially discriminatory policy of apartheid. Coal exports dropped by 20 per cent and 10,000 black miners lost

their jobs as result. Exports of steel, textiles and foodstuffs also slumped.

Middle East

In the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war and the after-effects of the sharp 1986 drop in oil prices continued to send ripples through the region's economies this year.

After falling below \$10 a barrel in 1986, oil prices rose to around \$18 in 1987 after members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed on production cuts.

But revenues remained far lower than in the early 1980s because of the lower oil production. In Saudi Arabia up to one million foreigners lost their jobs. Countries such as Egypt and Jordan, heavily dependent on remittances from their nationals working in oil-rich Arab nations, also suffered.

Communist world

In the Soviet Union, Communist Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev was busy trying to shift the Soviet Union from an overly centralised system of management to a more democratic economic system in which local producers have greater authority.

Gorbachev's most dramatic break with Marxist orthodoxy was a law allowing Soviet citizens to establish small private businesses. The Soviet Union also showed greater interest in joint ventures with Western firms. Soviet national income increased by 2.4 per cent, but serious problems were reported in large sections of the economy.

In Eastern Europe, some Soviet allies adopted or considered economic reforms in an effort to revitalise their sluggish domestic economies. In an unprecedented move for a communist nation, Poland submitted an economic austerity plan to a public referendum and the government was embarrassed when it failed to pass.

In China the swing from a centralised government-run economy had gone even further than in the Soviet bloc.

World Business Summary

Kremlin reforms help oil industry to beat '87 target

MOSCOW, Dec 28, (Reuters): Kremlin economic reforms have helped the Soviet oil industry beat 1987 output targets and end a period of stagnation which marked the early 1980s. Oil Minister Vasily Dinkov was quoted as saying today. He told Tass news agency that 1987 output by the world's biggest producer was roughly 624 million tonnes — which is the equivalent of about 12.5 million barrels daily and more than 20 per cent of total global production. The industry had exceeded a 1987 target of 617 million tonnes of oil and gas condensates, performing better than last year when output of 615 million tonnes fell short of a target of 616.7 million tonnes. The target for 1988 is 625 million tonnes.

Dinkov said bureaucracy was partly to blame for the earlier stagnation. This had been cut back and Soviet oilmen now enjoyed greater autonomy. Also, 91 per cent of oil industry employees were better paid as a result of the reforms and, from early 1988, all plants would transfer to a new system of self-financing.

Next year, 38 new deposits would be exploited commercially and 115 new wells drilled, Dinkov added. But he complained that two out of three oil-producing centres still failed to meet targets and geological prospecting in promising areas such as Kazakhstan, Siberia, the Soviet far east and offshore remained slow.

The Soviet Union earns most of its hard currency from fuel exports and suffered when world oil prices fell last year.

Nevertheless, it promised in August 1986 to cut exports to the West to help shore up prices in a move seen by Western analysts as a symbolic gesture to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

Moscow earlier this month published 1986 volume export figures for oil, a break with previous practice of reporting exports only in round terms. The official monthly foreign trade said petroleum exports reached 186.3 million tonnes in 1986 or 30 per cent of total production, compared with exports of 166.9 million in 1985.

Japan defence spending to increase by 5.2 pc

TOKYO, Dec 28, (AP): Japan will boost its defence spending by 5.2 per cent next fiscal year to about 3.7 trillion yen (\$29.13 billion), a Finance Ministry official said today. The ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also said Japan will raise its spending in provide aid to developing countries by 6.5 per cent to about 700 billion yen (\$5.51 billion) in fiscal 1988, which starts April 1. Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Defence Agency director general Tsutomu Kawara agreed on the level of defence spending in the government's fiscal 1988 budget, said the ministry official.

The budget is to be presented for approval at a cabinet meeting on Monday and in the diet, Japan's parliament, early next year, said the ministry official.

Last Wednesday, the Finance Ministry proposed a fiscal 1988 draft budget totalling 56.7 trillion yen (\$446 billion), up 4.8 per cent from a year earlier. In the new budget, defence spending would comprise 1.013 per cent of Japan's estimated Gross National Product.

In fiscal 1987, Japan allocated 3.52 trillion yen (\$27.71 billion) for defence, up 5.2 per cent from fiscal 1986.

Stocks end year with gloomy forecast for early '88

Japan to cut imports of Iranian oil

TOKYO, Dec 28, (Reuters): Japan plans to slash the amount of oil it buys from Iran under long-term contracts after coming under heavy US pressure to join a full-scale embargo against the Gulf state, oil industry sources said today.

Acting under guidance from the powerful International Trade and Industry Ministry, Japanese refiners and traders have decided to reduce their daily purchases of Iranian oil by about 30 per cent from close to 300,000 barrels per day this year.

Pushing
The United States has been pushing Japan hard to join in a full scale embargo on Iranian oil imports in a bid to convince Iran to accept a UN-sponsored ceasefire in its seven-year war with Iraq.

Although Tokyo has formally turned down the US request, the government has acted behind the scenes to ensure that Japanese industry does not step up its purchases of Iranian oil and, if possible, reduces them.

The buyers have been glad to comply because heavy worldwide oil supplies have convinced them that prices are headed lower and that there is therefore no need to sign fixed contracts with Tehran.

The planned cutback in Iranian oil imports is the latest sign that Japan is inching toward taking a tougher stand against Tehran, Western diplomats said.

Stance
Tokyo has traditionally maintained a neutral stance in its dealings with Iran and Iraq, seeking to act as a mediator in the war. Japan receives over 50 per cent of its oil supplies through the Strait of Hormuz and thus has been anxious to avoid antagonising either side in the Gulf war.

But Tokyo recently indicated that it would support an arms embargo against Tehran if the Gulf state refused to accept a UN-sponsored ceasefire.

It also decided to indirectly contribute to US efforts to ensure the safety of shipping in the Middle East by helping to finance radar installations in some Gulf states.

Meanwhile, the Tokyo Stock Market ended trading for 1987 on a somewhat sour note as pessimism spread into the outlook for the start of the New Year, brokers said.

With little direction from overseas during the holiday season, Tokyo reacted mostly to its own internal fears, which include concern over high levels of stocks bought with borrowed money

and the possible retreat from the market by the big special money trusts known as tokkin.

Only a major buying push by brokerages and investment trusts boosted the Nikkei-225 index off the day's low of 20,936.95 points, its lowest mark since world markets crashed in October. The index closed up 30.56 points, or 0.14 per cent, at 21,564.00.

Anxieties

High on the list of anxieties is concern that a recent change in accounting rules will prompt financial institutions and corporations to stop investing through the tokkin, which were a major force behind the market's rise before Black Monday.

Under the changed rules banks and other financial institutions must value their tokkin portfolio shares at purchase cost or market price, whichever is lower. The change forces the companies to realise losses that could be masked under earlier accounting methods.

Some tokkin managers are already selling shares in hope of minimising losses before closing their books at the end of March, and selling is expected to continue or accelerate in the January-March period, brokers said.

The prospect of heavy tokkin selling is weakening individual investors' confidence, already shaken by the failure of the traditional year-end rally to materialise.

"A lot of people think the outlook for next year is not so good, and if they want to sell by February or March (before the end of the fiscal year), they think they should sell now," said Hidehiro Iwaki, economist with the Nomura Research Institute.

"With the market tone weak, individual investors who held firm after the October crash are now getting bearish," said Kunio Misaki, senior analyst at Nikko Securities.

Worries about high levels of margin buying are also making investors jittery, brokers said. Margin buying allows an investor to buy a stock without paying in full for six months by putting up collateral, either cash or other shares.

The outstanding balance of margin buying contracts on the Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya stock exchanges hit a record 6,639.3 billion yen (\$52.7 billion) in the week to November 28, falling slightly to 6,571.2 billion yen (\$52.2 billion) in the week to December 18.

Turkey plans to set up gold exchange

ISTANBUL, Dec 28, (Reuters): Formation of the Turkish lira is now pencilled in for March and a gold exchange will be set up in Istanbul later, a senior Central Bank official said today.

Bankers said flotation of the lira, a major plank in Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's strategy of liberalising markets had been tentatively planned for January 15 but had been delayed for further technical study and consultation with banks.

The gold exchange would be an over-the-counter market but details like import laws and foreign participation were being discussed, said the Central Bank official, who declined to be identified.

"We shall move from the system of continual adjustment of the currency rate to a system of free interest and free rates. In this form the convertibility of the lira will be realised," Ozal said in Friday's reading of the government programme.

Market crash leaves cloud of anxiety over US economy

WASHINGTON, Dec 28, (Reuters): The October 19 "Black Monday" stock market crash has aroused anxiety about the US economy but fears of recession eased as the last weeks of 1987 brought strong signs of continued growth.

"The coming year promises an environment at least as volatile as that in 1987," said Henry Kaufman, chief economist of brokerage Salomon Brothers Inc and a leading Wall Street forecaster.

"The element of crisis that pervaded world financial markets in October 1987 threatens to re-emerge in the coming year."

But Kaufman and many other economists anticipate modest expansion in US output of goods and services. Kaufman sees US gross national product expanding by about 2.7 per cent after inflation in 1988.

The Reagan administration, acknowledging that the market crash shook the economy, scaled

back its forecast for 1988 economic growth. It expects GNP to grow by 2.4 per cent instead of the 3.5 per cent predicted in August.

"This downward revision, which is in line with many private forecasts, recognises the likely negative impact on growth in 1988 of the recent stock market crash and the increase in interest rates and tightening of monetary policy during 1987," according to Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

Resilience

But the post-crash economy has shown signs of unexpected resilience, suggesting that the momentum that was building up before investors lost billions of dollars of wealth when stock prices collapsed will keep it going.

GNP grew between July and September at a robust annual rate of 4.3 per cent and the growth rate for the first three

quarters has averaged an annual rate of 3.7 per cent.

"The economy was on a roll in the third quarter," said Allen Sinai, chief economist for Shearson Lehman Bros. Inc. in New York.

"As of now, no full-fledged recession should be expected in 1988," he said, adding there had been "no caving-in of the economy yet." Sinai sees GNP growth in 1988 of 2.2 per cent.

But plenty of reasons remain for caution, economists say.

Analysts say a plan by the White House and Congress to trim the budget deficit by \$76 billion over the next two years is too little to calm jittery financial markets.

"The harsh reality is that the federal government, like the general population, is consuming too much and producing too little," said Delos Smith, federal budget specialist for the Conference Board, a private business research group.

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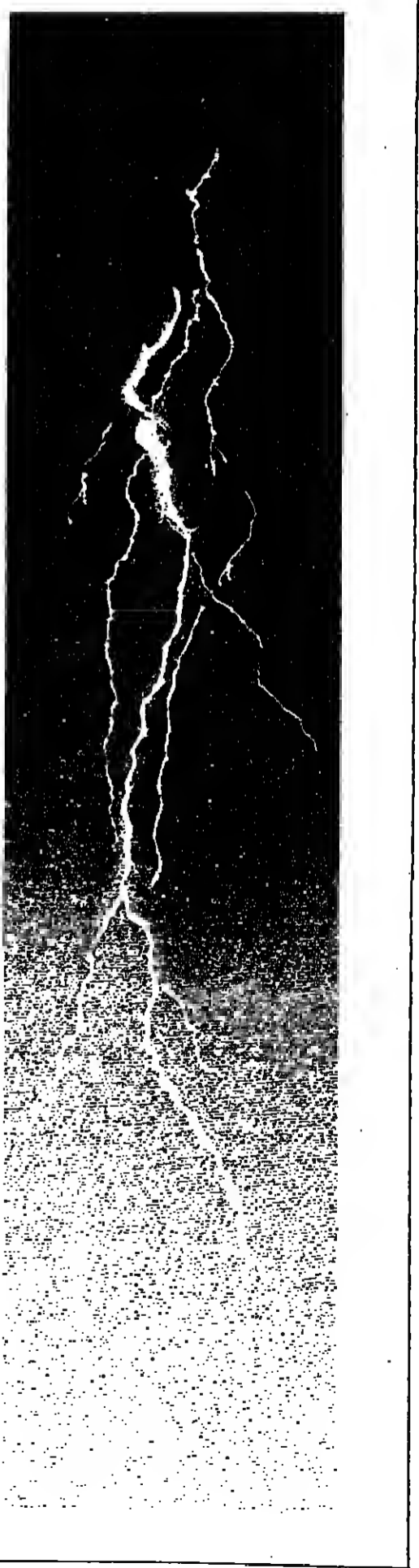
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In search of good yields with low risk

By Midas

NOW that 1987 is on its way out maybe it's time for a quick look in our crystal ball as to what is going to happen in 1988.

For goodness' sake don't bet your life's savings on the following predictions, I don't want to be run out of town if I get it wrong!

Before we go any further, a cautionary tale. You've probably heard of Sir James Goldsmith, the billionaire who sold everything he had back in August and so rode out the crash on a pile of cash, doubtless laughing all the while.

The classic reaction of such lucky folk is to start buying their way back in while everything is being sold at rock bottom prices. This is how the Kennedy fortune was built up after the 1929 Crash, and how the Rothschilds got rich after Waterloo.

Indeed, Sir Robert Maxwell, who also managed to get out of the market before the October debacle, is now using his cash hoard to take over everything in sight. Even the wise old birds at the Kuwait Investment Office are buying BP shares while they're cheap.

Shares
So what about Sir James Goldsmith? Is he sneaking buying his way back into the boardrooms of selected victims? Taking up huge blocks of shares in various corporations? Sweeping down like a wolf on the fold?

The answer is No. Sir James has put the whole lot in the bank and has gone off to Mexico where he plans to build a humble shack with a library for his 50,000 books somewhere along the Pacific coast. He has announced that he has no plans to return for at least six months.

Does he know something that the rest of us don't? Has he gone off his solid gold rocker? Or has he just decided that with a few economies he should be able to scrape by on his annual income of approximately \$100 million?

For the rest of us, what does 1988 hold in store? Let's start by looking at oil prices, always a useful indicator as to how the world economy is going to go. The recent Opec meeting decided to leave the price at \$18 a barrel and to leave production at just over 16 million barrels a day.

Price
Sounds fine, the snag is that the spot price is nearer \$15 a barrel and Opec production is actually nearer 18 million barrels a day. However, don't let this seeming disarray fool you into thinking that Opec is ineffective.

Because independent analysts have estimated that if the organisation did not exist, the world price of oil would be nearer \$5 per barrel.

So if the oil price should dip in the coming year, certain countries will find that their industries will benefit greatly. West Germany and Japan are obvious beneficiaries of any slump in oil prices. Even if the price manages to hold during the coming year, they will still have the advantage of their stronger currencies.

Since both the yen and the Deutschmark have strengthened considerably against the dollar and all oil sales are priced in dollars they are already enjoying the benefits of substantially cheaper oil.

If the dollar price drops as well they will be dancing in the streets of Cologne and Kyushu.

Weaken

So if the oil price seems likely to weaken in 1988, what about gold? Over the past decade or so, the price of gold has often followed that of oil, when the oil price goes up, so does gold, but that situation seems to have changed.

The main reason for this is that the world's savers and investors no longer see the stock markets as totally safe.

Gold is the traditional haven in times of uncertainty and it seems more than likely that the price of gold will rise in 1988 as more and more people start to put just a part of their portfolios into precious metals.

Remember too that with the drop in the value of the dollar, gold at \$500 an ounce is still very cheap in either yen or Deutschmark terms. Personally, though, I can't see gold rocketing upwards like it did a few years back.

Lots of people lost a lot of money when it crashed back down again, and the memory is still painful. Rather I would expect to see gold drifting slightly higher month by month, with little spurts whenever the news is particularly frightening, or markets take a turn for the worse.

Increase

Where will it end? I can imagine the price of gold to be about \$600 per ounce by the end of 1988. This isn't much of an increase, only 20 per cent, but there is a hidden factor, namely, the value of the dollar.

If the dollar keeps on sinking then even a price of \$600 per ounce begins to seem pretty weak, but if the dollar starts to recover again, then the \$600 gold price might well be buttressed by a healthy currency gain.

So what is in store for the dollar next year? There is one major factor which will become more and more important as the year goes on: the US election. At this point this seems quite unpredictable since there are too many candidates, too few policies, too much hype and not a single inspiring and courageous leader.

If one does not emerge in the coming months then the dollar could well keep on sinking since nobody in the US administration seems to have the guts to tell the people a few unpleasant truths about their overvalued currency.

Weak
Having said that, I think it's quite likely that in the short term the dollar will continue to be very weak, but will sooner or later recover. The reason is simple. The dollar is already a bit undervalued, if it sinks even further then sooner or later, people will start to see it as a bargain, funds will move in to take advantage

and then it will start to climb again.

When will this take place? Well, the dollar is currently around 126 yen, some experts have predicted a fall to as low as 100 yen, or even 80. That seems far too low, and if the dollar should fall as far as this then it will undoubtedly start to regain its strength.

I think that the dollar could well return to levels between 130 and 140 yen by the end of 1988, possibly even higher if the correction follows its usual course of overshooting.

Whenever the next election becomes clear then the dollar will begin to settle down as the world takes its measure of a new US administration.

The next factor to consider is interest rates which are still quite high in most countries, Germany and Japan excepted, although there again they have been bolstered by the appreciating value of those countries over the past couple of years.

In other words, if you put your savings into yen two years ago you may have only earned a derisory rate of interest, but the revaluation of the yen has meant that your savings have grown very handsomely in dollar terms.

Drop

With the drop in the dollar's value the US has been forced to offer higher rates of interest in order to make it worthwhile for foreign investors to continue to fund the deficit.

Rates were slashed in the wake of the October crash but I don't think this can continue for very long. I would guess that rates will remain low, perhaps even fall a little further in the first half of 1988, but will then begin to edge higher again as America needs to attract more and more foreign money.

Of course, if US rates rise then rates elsewhere will follow suit as other countries try to prevent all their funds being sucked into the American economy. Of course, this is where we have to consider the problem of inflation. If inflation starts to surge then interest rates will have to go even higher to make it worthwhile for savers.

The Germans have a total horror of inflation and will do everything they can to prevent it, other countries are not quite so paranoid. I think that inflation in Europe and the US will quite likely rise during 1988, but by a relatively small amount.

Gain

The reason for this is that every government is on its guard against the danger and none of them will gain any lasting benefit from a rekindling of the hyperinflation which caused so much trouble during the seventies.

So where does all this leave us? To recap: inflation will rise slightly, the dollar will be weak in the short term, but should recover when the world feels it has sunk too far, interest rates will drift slightly but may well rise again in the latter half of the coming

year, the price of oil will weaken, gold will rise.

Naturally, all of the above is very tentative, any major political upheaval or natural disaster could change everything at a stroke. A devastating earthquake in Japan or California, another Chernobyl, a happy conclusion to the Iran-Iraq war, the death of a crucial leader, any one of these could radically change all of my predictions.

And so we come to the heart of the matter, the world's stock markets. In reality, stock markets are the leading edge of world history, they deal not with the present, but the future as far as can be estimated, guessed or imagined. A market is really no more than a consensus of opinion.

Take London for instance, the people who own shares there include optimistic wealthy oil-rich Arabs, dour and gloomy industrialists, foxey get-rich-quick speculators, pension funds and so on.

Prices reflect the middle ground among all these competing, contrasting and conflicting groups.

Role

In the wake of the crash there seem to be even more diverse opinions as to what is going to happen next than ever before.

On one hand you have Sir James Goldsmith saying it's all going to the dogs, and Maxwell on the other buying everything he can lay his hands on, while others, bankrupted by the carnage of October, are too busy trying to re-group their forces to take any role in the markets at all.

The main point seems to me to be a question of confidence. Looking back to the collapse of the gold price in the early seventies we can see that it takes an awful long time for investor confidence to be restored. The present rally in the markets is pretty shallow and I suspect that it is mainly geared towards making year end figures look as healthy as possible. I think that in the New Year there is likely to be another price slump.

Agreement

However, there seem to be a lot of good news around, the recent INF agreement has lowered tensions, the oil price is no longer a problem, inflation is quite low. Will the market simply ignore the good news while looking for bad news to feed its growing paranoia? Sadly, it seems all too likely. The US deficits have overshadowed all else for the past few months and will likely continue to do so.

And the small saver or investor? For the foreseeable future, cash is king. A portion of one's portfolio in gold, some in bonds, some in a managed currency fund, these are reasonable alternatives, but the majority of one's holdings should be as liquid as possible. With a modicum of luck, 1988 will be a quieter year than the one we have just lived through, a period of economic convalescence if you like. The depression that everybody dreads might fade away into a mere slowdown. At least let's hope so.

Gulf ready to back Opec oil pact

RIYADH, Dec 28, (Reuters). The Gulf Arab summit will express support for Opec's 1988 agreement to set oil prices at \$18 a barrel, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said today.

Prince Saud, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit spokesman, told reporters: "The GCC has always been supporting Opec resolutions on oil prices and production levels and the summit will baveits word on this."

Four GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — are members of Opec while Bahrain and Qatar closely follow policies of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Opec agreed at a meeting in Vienna earlier this month to extend current production quotas totalling 15.06 million barrels per day (bpd), excluding Iraq, through the first half of next year and keep prices at \$18 a barrel.

The GCC began its eighth summit

on Saturday, dominated by security concerns arising from the Iran-Iraq war.

Oil industry sources say at least two GCC members, Kuwait and the UAE, have been exceeding their output quotas, contributing to a surplus of oil that has depressed prices on the free or spot market.

Both states said last week they would cut production to implement the new Opec pact.

Meanwhile, non-Opec Oman will peg oil output at current levels of around 565,000 barrels per day for the next five years to help Opec stabilise world prices.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals confirmed a report in the Oman daily Observer newspaper that Oman would hold down production to support Opec's aim of containing a surplus of crude oil on world markets.

Oman is not a member of Opec, but

has co-operated with its drive to cut output and defend an \$18 per barrel benchmark.

The report quoted Oman's Petroleum and Minerals Minister Said Bin Ahmed Al Shanfari as saying Muscat was committed to supporting Opec's efforts to stabilise oil prices.

Policy

In line with this policy, the government of Oman has decreased oil production until it has now reached 565,000 barrels per day, Shanfari was quoted as saying.

The report said Oman's oil output peaked at 600,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 1986 but was reduced in support of Opec. Of current production of 565,000 bpd, 515,000 bpd is exported.

The report said all Oman's crude is sold on 12-month contracts, with Japan taking 60 per cent of output and South Korea, Thailand, Singapore and Taiwan a further 30 per cent.

Shanfari said Oman's proven oil reserves were currently four billion barrels, up from 2.5 billion in 1985.

The country also had reserves of 2.45 trillion cubic feet of associated gas and 6.91 trillion cubic feet of non-associated gas.

New nine oil wells are to come on stream by end-1987, but oil industry sources said they were aimed at maintaining current production levels from low-output fields.

Meanwhile, crude oil prices weakened slightly but trading activity was thin on international spot markets due to an official holiday in the UK and with many European traders extending their Christmas holidays.

Earlier this month, Opec agreed to rollover its 1987 accord in the first six months of 1988. This sets a production ceiling of 15.06 million barrels a day, excluding Iraq, and a reference price of \$18 a barrel.

KD deposit rates steady

KUWAIT: Deposit rates were steady yesterday with most banks having closed their balance sheet for the end of the year and moved out of the market.

Dealers said few banks had even quoted rates in the fixed periods, not wanting to tie up funds over the turn of the year.

Salary payments and the maturing of treasury bills worth KD 56 million on December 30 promised to keep liquidity high for the next week at least.

Short-term maturities were well-offered but few bids were given. Overnight was offered at 1/2 per cent and tomorrow-night at 3-1/2 per cent. One-month was little changed from Sunday at 3-1/2, 1/4 per cent and other periods were generally unquoted.

The Central Bank kept its dinar exchange rate steady at 0.2725/86 to the dollar and the spot was quoted at 0.2726/70.

Meanwhile, Saudi rial inter-bank deposit rates were steady yesterday as the market ground to a standstill at the end of the year, dealers said.

Many banks have squared their year-end positions, and dealers expect little serious trading before Monday, January 4, the first European trading day of 1988. A small amount of activity focused on tidying up balance sheets.

Softer

The spot rial remained at the softer levels against the dollar established in recent weeks. Dealers said the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (Sama) appeared reluctant to sell dollars during the European Christmas holidays.

The spot rial was quoted little changed at 3.7500/05.

Dealers expect rial interest rates to tighten in the first few months of the New Year as government payment dry up and contractors convert rial funds into dollars.

The 1988 budget is thought unlikely to produce surprises when unveiled on Wednesday. Banks have reconciled themselves to deficit financing, but are anxious to see if the government introduces a medium-term debt instrument to raise local funds.

Morgan Stanley Capital International Indices

| INDEX | LATEST | 1/PREV-DAYS/2 | PREV-QR | PREV-YR |
|-------------|--------|---------------|---------|---------|
| AUSTRALIA | 257.8 | 247.4 | 247.4 | 263.2 |
| AUSTRIA | 212.9 | 212.9 | 212.9 | 257.5 |
| BELGIUM | 262.4 | 254.3 | 251.4 | 307.6 |
| CANADA | 357.6 | 352.3 | 354.1 | 333.2 |
| DENMARK | 340.5 | 340.5 | 341.7 | 364.8 |
| FRANCE | 302.1 | 301.8 | 296.4 | 408.1 |
| GERMANY | 0 | 162.7 | 163.2 | 259.8 |
| HONG KONG | 1661.5 | 1633.3 | 1630.3 | 1778.9 |
| ITALY | 392.6 | 392.6 | 389.6 | 563.6 |
| JAPAN | 1069.5 | 1076.2 | 1080.0 | 945.0 |
| MEXICO | 3523.8 | 3406.9 | 3498.1 | 10131.6 |
| NETHERLANDS | 224.6 | 221.9 | 217.5 | 257.1 |
| NORWAY | 395.3 | 395.3 | 392.2 | 698.2 |
| SINGAPORE | 478.3 | 478.3 | 472.7 | 789.8 |
| SPAIN | 218.3 | 218.3 | 218.3 | 192.8 |
| SWEDEN | 716.1 | 716.1 | 715.23 | 1007.7 |
| SWITZ | 144.8 | 144.8 | 143.4 | 213.9 |
| U.K. | 538.9 | 526.6 | 527.0 | 497.6 |
| U.S.A. | 234.0 | 232.0 | 232.1 | 300.0 |
| WORLD | 412.8 | 412.4 | 410.7 | 485.4 |
| E.A.F.E. | 763.3 | 760.5 | 761.4 | 850.0 |
| EUROPE | 365.9 | 362.4 | 360.7 | 444.9 |

Announcement

THE world stock markets will be closed on Jan 1 for the New Year holiday. There will be no market prices in the Arab Times on Jan 2. The Tokyo market will also be closed from Dec 29 to Jan 1.

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Gold gains

Dollar stumbles to further record lows

FRANKFURT, Dec. 28, (Reuters): The dollar tumbled today to historic lows below 1.60 West German marks and 123 Japanese yen despite central bank intervention and its slide started a retreat in share prices on Wall Street and in Europe.

The dollar was quoted in Asia as low as 1.5870 West German marks. In Europe, it touched a quoted low of 122.75 yen.

At the close of European trading the central banks had managed to lift it to 1.5950 marks and 122.95 yen — but that was well below values last week ahead of the Christmas holiday when it was worth just over 1.62 marks and 126 yen.

Joined
Today's dollar fall jolted confidence on Wall Street, reversing a three-week pre-Christmas rally in New York stocks. The Dow Jones industrial average of 30 stocks dropped 52 points to 1,947 in the first half-hour after the New York Stock Exchange reopened after the Christmas break.

The dollar fell after currency dealers in Asia again convinced themselves that the United States, in its anxiety to correct a huge trade deficit, would be happy to see its currency con-

tinue to lose value.

They decided to sell the dollar to test how low it would be allowed to sink. "We can't tell if the US will support the dollar. That's why the market is trying to test the dollar's bottom," one said.

Central banks of Japan, West Germany, France, Italy and Switzerland all bought dollars, market sources reported.

Joined
The key question was whether the US Federal Reserve Board had joined in. Some European dealers suspected that it had. Some New York sources said that speculation that this was the case had certainly helped steady the dollar.

Traders said the Bank of Japan bought \$200 million to \$300 million during the morning in an attempt to slow the fall of the dollar, which has dropped 9.23 yen since Dec. 8.

"In the near future, the dollar is likely to plunge further unless Japan's Central Bank takes measures such as a lowering of interest rates," said Kenji Yokota, managing director of investment advisers' department at Yasuda Trust and Banking Co.

The dollar's nosedive came

less than a week after finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven industrialised nations issued a joint statement committing themselves to stabilising foreign exchange rates.

Reaction
But dealers in Milan said the dollar's reaction indicated deep distrust in the measures. Earlier, Japanese dealers had shown cool reaction to the statement, noting it did not specify target zones for the dollar's exchange rates.

In Zurich gold closed at \$490.50 an ounce, up 3.95 from Thursday's close of \$484.55. Silver rose 13 cents to \$6.88 an ounce from \$6.75.

The London bullion markets remained closed. But others doubted if the Fed had acted. "If the Fed has been in, it has not done a very good job of it," one said.

European dealers said trading was thin, because the London market remained closed until tomorrow, so quite small sales sufficed to move the dollar down.

A sudden dollar drop in Europe's afternoon was variously attributed to a large yen/mark order in the thin market pushing up the mark, and a Japanese investor selling out of from Moroccan shores.

Filali gave no other details and his statement, carried by the official news agency Map, could not be confirmed by EEC officials in Brussels.

Morocco is developing its fishing industry, already a major source of foreign exchange. Fish exports last year fetched 2.8 billion dirhams (about \$350 million) — around 27 per cent more than in 1985.

The EEC is the principal market for Moroccan exports, especially fish and citrus fruits.

Energy talks
AMMAN, Dec. 28, (Kuna): Visiting Energy and Oil Minister of Norway Arne Oien met today with Jordanian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Hassem Al Khatib.

The discussions between the two ministers tackled ways of how to benefit from Norwegian expertise in oil exploration works in Jordan, sources said.

They discussed energy, economic and trade ties between the two countries.

Switzerland.

Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said he expected other central banks to help the dollar in line with last Wednesday's Group of Seven (G-7) statement which reiterated a call for stable currencies.

The statement by finance ministers of the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada said a further dollar fall could damage the global economy.

Document
But President Reagan's chief economic adviser, Beryl Sprinkel, has said the document contained no specific agreement to support the dollar.

Stockbrokers in Frankfurt and Paris cited the dollar's weakness for lower share prices in those centres. A cheap dollar crimped earnings on exports to the United States.

But they said business was very thin, with many operators still away for an extended Christmas holiday.

Switchback
The Paris 50-share Bourse indicator ended 3.39 per cent down on the day. Shares also ended weaker in Belgium and the Netherlands where the Amsterdam all-share indicator ended

4.7 per cent down.

Tokyo stocks had a switch-back rise on their last half-day of trade in the year. The key Nikkei index fell 600 points only to rebound and close about 30 points higher at 21,564.00.

The movement was largely due to institutions juggling the market around, brokers said. The New Year brigade, which believes a lower market at the end of the old year is a bad omen, finally won out. One broker described the day as unreal.

The Hang Seng index, the Hong Kong market's prime indicator of blue chips, fell 92.32 points, closing at 2,286.75. Turnover amounted to 866.79 million Hong Kong dollars (\$111.12 million) compared with 797.63 million Hong Kong dollars (\$102.3 million) during Thursday's half-day trading. The market was closed on Friday for the Christmas holiday.

The Manila Stock Exchange index was down 5.22 points from Thursday's close at 796.24.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange will be closed Dec. 29-Jan. 3, while the foreign exchange market will be closed Jan. 1-3.

US stock and commodity markets will be closed on Friday in observance of New Year.

Morocco, EEC hold final talks on new fishing pact

RABAT, Dec. 28, (Reuters): Morocco resumes fisheries talks with the European Economic Community (EEC) in Brussels tomorrow aware that its relationship with the trading bloc could be strained by failure to produce a new agreement on fishing rights.

The two sides have been negotiating since July, when a four-year pact between Spain and Morocco expired and was extended until December 31.

Failure to reach agreement would mean that 800 Spanish boats, mainly from the Canary Islands, would be excluded from fishing Moroccan waters. An estimated 12,000 Spaniards depend on fishing there for a livelihood.

Upset
It could also upset EEC-Moroccan relations at a time when Rabat is seeking stronger political and economic ties with the 12-member group.

With the two sides apparently still far from agreement, it seemed that the present fishing accord would be given another brief extension to allow time for

more talks. Spain lost its right to deal directly with Morocco on fishing rights when it joined the EEC last year. The EEC negotiates on behalf of its members and has fishing pacts with 16 other countries.

Pact
Morocco, which has vast territorial waters in the Mediterranean and Atlantic, has not officially disclosed its terms for a new fishing pact.

Diplomats say the EEC has offered a 15-year accord while Rabat insists it should be for four years renewable. The EEC has offered only half the 15 billion Spanish pesetas (\$126 million) which Morocco has demanded in annual dues.

Morocco also wants to limit the tonnage of catches, gradually reducing them from 70,000 to 40,000 tons a year.

Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali told the cabinet last week after talks in Brussels that the EEC had agreed that the number of vessels fishing Moroccan waters should be gradually reduced and the boats kept away

Dollar tumbles to historic lows

THE US dollar plummeted and hit a record traded low of 1.5870 marks in the Far East, despite last week's Group of Seven statement warning against a further fall.

However intervention by Bank of Japan and Bundesbank helped the currency to recover partly during the afternoon business in Asia. The Bank of Japan intervened twice during the day at 123.50 and 123.55 yen by buying small amounts of dollars.

The market was extremely quiet in volume terms with London closed and many traders away for holidays.

The dollar ended the day in Singapore at 123.60/80 yen compared with its 124.40/90 close in Bahrain overnight, but above the historic low of 123.30 yen established in the morning. In Hong Kong the US unit ended at 1.6005/20 marks compared an early 1.5900/10 and at 123.50/80 yen versus 123.55/65.

Intervention by the Bundesbank lifted the dollar to a high of 1.6045 marks after opening in Frankfurt at 1.6010/20. Some dealers reported that the Bundesbank was also buying dollar during Asian business hours. With the closure of London market, the trading remained quiet and the dollar for most of the time in Europe and dealers noted even small orders were having an exaggerated effect on price movements.

The dollar's renewed weakness pushed up the mark against other currencies, putting the European Monetary System (EMS) joint float under strain.

Sterling opened at 2.977/981 marks in Frankfurt after closing on Wednesday at 2.983/986.

The dollar stood at the following levels during European midday trade:

Sfr: 1.8330/50
Dm: 1.6015/25
Sfr: 1.2965/75
Yen: 123.25/40
Provided by: Al Kazemi Int Exch Co. Kuwait.

S. Arabia won't sell oil at discount

RIYADH, Dec. 28, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia will not sell its oil below official Opec prices unless overproduction by other members seriously threatens its market share, a Saudi oil official said today.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has come under pressure to offer discounts or other trade concessions because of weakness in the oil spot market, where prices have fallen below those set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters the kingdom had repeatedly turned down requests for discounts.

"Every day we receive calls from people asking us to be more merciful in our terms. We say no, and they say okay and lift (oil) anyway," the official said.

Quota

He said Saudi production in December would average close to its Opec quota of 4,343 million barrels per day (bpd), showing the kingdom could sell nearly all of its quota at official prices.

But he said Saudi Arabia was determined to preserve its market share and would consider any means to do so if it was threatened by output violations by other Opec states.

"If our production level fell below the quota, we would assess why, and if it was because someone else was overproducing (the Opec) agreement is compromised and there is no agreement," he said.

At a meeting in Vienna earlier this month, Opec agreed to extend into the first half of 1988 its 1987 second half production ceiling of 15.06 million bpd, excluding Iraq, and keep prices at \$18 a barrel.

The official said Saudi Arabia had several ways to make its oil more attractive to buyers apart from straight discounts. "But we assume we will not be finding ourselves using such methods, he said.

Bid to boost military, aid outlays

Japan budget to reform finances

TOKYO, Dec. 28, (UPI): The cabinet approved a fiscal 1988 budget today which will decrease Japan's dependence on exports, boost its support for US military bases and hasten its own military build-up.

The 56.7 trillion yen (\$460.9 billion) budget is in part aimed at defusing US pressure on Japan to reduce its trade surplus and increase its share of the defence burden.

Contribution
"We have done whatever we could to obtain US understanding in compiling the budget," said chief cabinet secretary Keizo Obuchi.

The budget represents about 1 per cent increase over the \$4.1 trillion yen (\$439.8 billion) 1987 budget and 1.7 trillion yen (\$14.2 billion) supplementary budget added in July, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Under the new budget, Japan will increase its share of the cost

of maintaining 60,000 US troops in the country. The Japanese contribution will rise by 11 per cent or about 12.8 billion yen (\$100 million) to 120.3 billion (about \$1 billion).

Prime Minister Noboru Take-shita will announce further measures to expand Japan's support for the US troops on Jan. 1, the Foreign Ministry official said.

Overall military spending will rise above 1 per cent of the Gross National Product for the second year in a row.

The defence budget will increase by 5.2 per cent to 3.7 trillion yen (\$30.6 billion), or 1.013 per cent of GNP.

Criticised
For many years Japan kept defence spending below the 1 per cent level but lifted the self-imposed limit last year. The move was criticised by some of Japan's Asian neighbours where

the memory of Japanese military expansion during World War II is still fresh.

"I think we have explained in full detail our rationale for eliminating the 1 per cent barrier when it was adopted by a cabinet resolution January last year," a Foreign Ministry official said.

The budget includes a down-payment for Aegis missile ship, a new generation of fighter planes and an over-the-horizon radar system all to be purchased in part from American companies.

To reduce Japan's reliance on the export economy, the government will continue a policy of increased spending on public works projects to stimulate domestic consumption.

Greater domestic consumption, including purchases of imported products, is one way Japan can reduce its trade surplus with the United States, which last year hit a record \$59 billion.

Public works funding will increase by 20 per cent over the 1987 budget to 72.17 billion yen (\$586 billion). The figure, however, is identical to the 1987 budget when July's supplementary budget is added in.

Aid

Aid to developing countries will increase by about 6.5 per cent to 700 billion yen (\$5.69 billion). As in the previous year, 70 per cent of the aid will go to Asian countries and rest will be split between Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.

The Japanese government says at the same time it increases the total budget, it will reduce government borrowing by 15.6 per cent. This is made possible by selling 1.3 trillion yen (\$10 billion) in government-owned Nippon Telegraph Corp. Stock and collecting an anticipated 9.5 per cent increase in tax revenue from greater economic activity.

Reconsider new hike in war rates: UAE insurers

DUBAI, Dec. 28, (Reuters): Insurers in a Gulf state on the frontline of Iran and Iraq's shipping war are trying to halt escalating war risk premiums they fear will drive ships away from the ports.

Ibrahim Hannoun, head of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Insurance Association, told Reuters the 40-member group had asked London underwriters to reconsider a new cent hike in war premium rates, which he said were raised from 0.3 to 0.75 per cent.

"If this keeps up with ships hit regularly there will be a lot of claims and war rates will rise again and again," he said.

"There is no end to it and I fear cargo ships will not come to the area at all," he added.

Rate

He said the War Risk Rating Committee (WRR) of the Institute of London Underwriters had lifted the war risk rate for ships serving Gulf ports to 0.75 per cent of hull value on Dec. 23. The value of tanker hulls vary with class and age, from \$8.5 million to \$45 million and cargo hull values range from \$3 million

to \$50 million, shipping experts say.

The hull war risk premium is additional to normal insurance rates. Cargoes are insured separately.

Hannoun said the UAE group had appealed against the rise and was seeking at least a separate rate for cargo vessels, which are not hit as often as tankers.

"We have asked (the WRR) to reconsider the 0.75 rate because we feel this increase can't be justified," he said. "We also asked for separate rates, one for marine hull tankers and one for commercial ships which are not as threatened."

Hitting

Iran and Iraq have stepped up attacks on Gulf ships, hitting a total of 18 vessels in a two-week period ending on Friday.

Two of the 18 were cargo ships set alight — the South Korean Hyundai No. 7 was carrying timber to Dubai in the UAE, and the Maldives-flag Island Transporter had loaded bulk sulphur at the Saudi port of Dammam.

The UAE lies opposite Iran's coast and straddles the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman.

Rose

In the past year ships in waters near the emirate have hit mines had been attacked from Abu Musa Revolutionary Guards island base just 30 miles offshore.

War risk rates for UAE ports within the Gulf were 0.10 per cent

last April. They rose to 0.20 per cent in August, to 0.30 per cent in September and to 0.75 per cent this month.

The new rate applies to all Gulf ports in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE.

Last summer a war risk premium of 0.10 per cent was levied on ships using UAE ports outside the Gulf for the first time after two ships hit mines off the previously safe havens of Fujairah and Khor Fakhan.

Turkey starts producing silver

ANKARA, Dec. 28, (Reuters): Turkey has opened its first silver mine and expects export earnings of about \$30 million a year, state radio said yesterday.

It said the 100th Year Silver Metal Facilities, owned by the state firm Etibank, would process one million tonnes of ore a year and produce 122 tonnes of pure silver.

Etibank's director-general Suha Nizamoglu was quoted as saying that 102 tonnes would be exported to raise an estimated \$30 million.

Lebanese pound strengthens

BEIRUT, Dec. 28, (Reuters): The Lebanese pound strengthened against the US dollar today closing at 450.00/454.00 compared to the previous close at 467.00/469.00, the Central Bank said.



A bourse dealer seen in nervous trading following a sharp fall in the dollar fixed at 5.4330, its lowest level against the French franc in six years. Market sources said the Bank of France intervened shortly after the opening when the dollar fell as low as 5.4150 francs. (Reuters radiophoto)

Chinese venture capital turns up in Florida property deal

JACKSONVILLE, Florida, Dec. 28, (Reuters): Some Florida residents may soon be living in Chinese-financed housing as a result of Beijing's recent moves towards economic liberalisation.

The cash is coming from state-sponsored entrepreneurs who have been given an official mandate to invest in property markets abroad.

The China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) of Beijing has chosen this northern Florida city as the site of its first housing development in the United States.

"This is their prototype residential project," said Pamela Wilcock, an American marketing representative of CSCEC in Jacksonville.

Bust
In a state where real estate have frequently turned to bust, the company has bought 107 acres (43 hectares) of land for \$1.7 million. It hopes to transform the investment into a \$27 million housing development called Chinaberry Lakes.

When the final phase of the project is complete some five years from now, Wilcock said Chinaberry Lakes should contain 500 single family homes ranging in price from \$55,000 to \$80,000.

But the project has brought with it a sweet-and-sour relationship with Jacksonville. The city fathers welcomed the

Chinese housing pioneers, but people who live near the construction site complained to local authorities, saying the development would overcrowd their roads and schools.

Some residents believe the fact that the developer is an agency for a communist country is behind the complaints.

Bulldozer
There has been some vandalism. We have had one bulldozer bot-wired, (started up illegally without a key) and driven into a lake," Wilcock said.

A government agency, CSCEC is one of the largest contractors in the world and has 25 offices overseas. "They've pretty much embraced our free economy. I guess they realise in order to make their economy more sound they will have to change," said Wilcock.

The profits from Chinaberry Lakes and other CSCEC enterprises will generate hard currency that will be returned to China, officials from the company said.

CSCEC is also active in Canada. On December 1, it signed an agreement for a joint venture to build a 520-room hotel in Toronto next to the City Hall. The project will cost \$11 million, said Mike Wagner, CSCEC's attorney in Atlanta, Georgia.

He said CSCEC had invested in 1,000 acres (400 hectares) near Sacramento, California, that were destined for mixed com-

mercial and residential development. "This should be a five-year project and the total development will be in excess of \$100 million," Wagner said.

CSCEC, he added, was looking at developing a resort hotel in Guatemala, a petrochemical plant in Argentina and commercial buildings in Los Angeles, Washington DC and Seattle in Washington state.

The agency has also signed an agreement to develop a 700-acre (280 hectares) resort in Bimini, the Bahamas, complete with a casino.

"As you can imagine, a casino is most profitable," Wagner said. "It demonstrates there are commercial agencies that operate out of mainland China that are profit-motivated in a most capitalistic way."

CSCEC-Florida president Tao Jim-Tang said the company chose Jacksonville for its first residential development in the United States because the city was one of the fastest-growing in the country and because of local government support.

The sole developer of Chinaberry Lakes, CSCEC-Florida paid cash for the land and will not borrow to finance the rest of the project — a contrast to how American developers commonly finance their projects.

"The CSCEC will pay (cash) for all the construction, so they won't be encumbered by paying interest," Wilcock said.

South Korea's foreign exchange holdings to hit all-time high

SEOUL, Dec. 28, (AP): Paced by its growing current account surplus, South Korea's foreign exchange holdings are expected to hit an all-time high of \$10 billion by the end of this year, government officials said today.

Foreign exchange holdings indicate a country's ability to pay overseas.

Officials at the Bank of Korea, the Central Bank, said South Korea's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$9.32 billion at the end of November, up \$880 million from October and \$1.36 billion from a year earlier.

The reserves continued to grow in December and at the current pace, it is expected to hit the \$10 billion level by the end of the year, the officials said.

The officials attributed the swell to ever-growing current account surplus, expected to total \$10 billion by year-end. This year's current account surplus stood at \$8.9 billion.

The current account surplus includes a trade surplus of an estimated \$6 billion, plus invisible trade such as tourism income and unilateral transfers.

The good economic performance is also expected to help the country reduce its external debt from \$44.5 billion at the end of last year to \$3.5 billion by the end of this year, the officials said.

Kuwait Oil Company (KSC) / Getty Oil Company

Joint Operations

(Kuwait Oil Company and Getty Oil Company) announce the tender for:-

CLEANING & ASSOCIATED SERVICES

Experienced contractors wishing to participate in this tender, are invited to collect the Tender Documents from Contracts Administration Office at Joint Operations — Wafra during the official working hours from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. not later than 9:00 am on January 20, 1988, against a non-refundable fees of KD. 75/-

مكتبة الامم



IN FOCUS
The world today
VICTIMS OF
PHILIPPINE FERRY COLLISION
SEARCHED AT TABLAS STRAIT AT
11:00 PM ON DECEMBER 20, 1987

A WEEK after a Philippine ferry sank in the world's worst peacetime sea tragedy, a woman continues the mournful task of searching for missing relatives in a coffin-filled sports stadium converted into a temporary morgue. (Reuter radiophoto)



FORMER New Jersey State Senator David Friedland, who had been captured earlier this month on the Maldives Islands, smiles as he arrives at Kennedy Airport from Zurich on Sunday. He faces trial on fraud charges that carry a potential sentence of 150 years in prison. (Reuter radiophoto)



AFTER spending Christmas in jail, Kanak independence leader Yelwena Yelwene gives a press conference after being released yesterday morning in Noumea, New Caledonia. (Reuter radiophoto)



AN Iranian warship stands next to the West German container ship "Norasia Pearl", which belongs to the Norasia Line company, in the southern Gulf yesterday. The Iranian warship halted the vessel and then sent a small boat across to inspect its cargo. Iranians patrol this part of the Gulf to check the passing vessels and sometimes attack them. (Reuter radiophoto)



EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak (right) met Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock yesterday. Mock, on a ten-day visit to Egypt, on Sunday condemned Israeli action against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. (Reuter radiophoto)



A MONEY broker checks the dollar rate at midday yesterday. The dollar traded at 123.60 yen, down sharply from 125.20 yen in Tokyo on Friday. (Reuter radiophoto)



THE Porsche team pose for photographs near their cars in Ralms, France on Sunday. The tenth Paris-Dakar race starts Friday, January 1. From left to right: Jean-Pierre Jabouille, Gili Levent, P. Landreau and Jacques Laffite. Jabouille and Laffite are former Formula-1 drivers. (Reuter radiophoto)



SWISS boxer Mauro Martelli is held up high after retaining his European welterweight boxing title in Lausanne on Sunday. Martelli defeated challenger and French champion Jean-Marie Touati. (Reuter radiophoto)



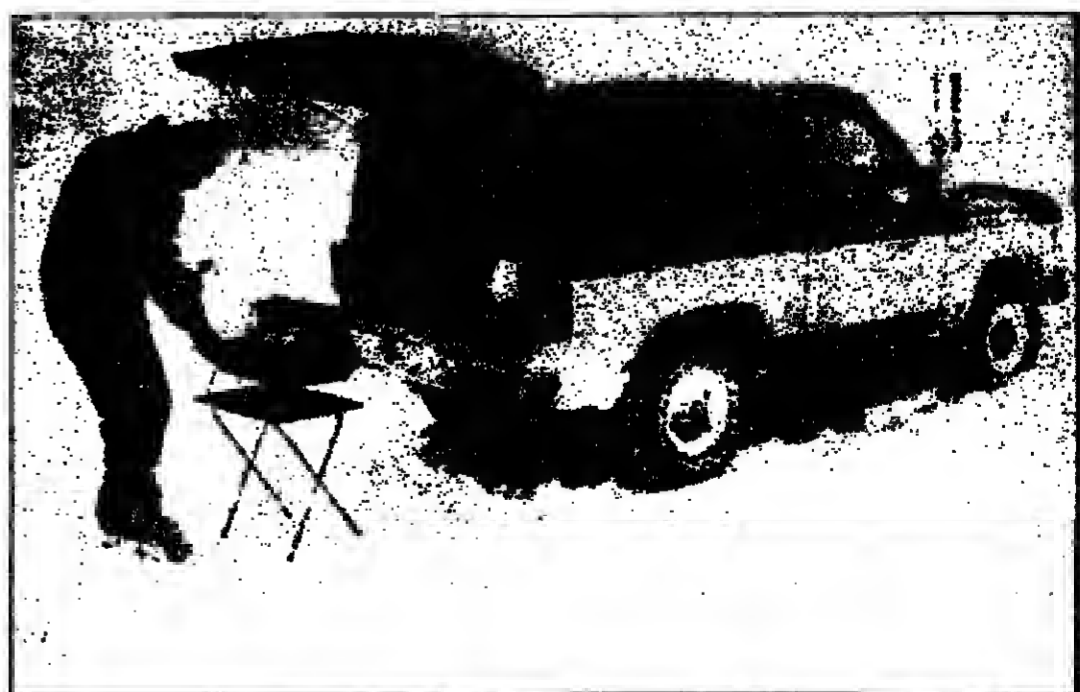
YOUNG Palestinians are greeted by relatives before they go on trial in the military court in Gaza yesterday on the second day of trials. The youngsters had been involved in the uprising in the Gaza Strip. (Reuter radiophoto)



WEST GERMAN Anton Fischer jumps into his bobsleigh while Christoph Langen is still pushing from the start of two-men bobsleigh World Cup event at the Koenigssee bob course on Sunday. Anton Fischer drove to the second place with his brakeman in the time of 1 min. 40.32 seconds. (Reuter radiophoto)



AN unidentified child crawls to reach Pope John II as he speaks to a group of visitors during a special audience at his summer villa at Castelgandolfo on Sunday. (Reuter radiophoto)



HUDDLED over his cookstove in a driving snowstorm on Sunday a Denver Broncos fan Willie Matney continues with his pre-game tailgate party in a near-empty parking lot across from Mile High Stadium. Despite the near blizzard conditions, the Denver Broncos played the San Diego Chargers in the final game of the regular season. (Reuter radiophoto)

What's hot, what's not in 1988

By Karen Timmons

PEOPLE looking back at 1987 couldn't help but be confused. Politicians turned into soap opera stars, evangelism often looked more like hedonism, sex and making a buck on the stock market seemed equally dangerous, the Marines produced a few bad men and suddenly Americans were cheering the Russians on the streets of Washington.

If all this has left you wondering which end is up for the new year, here's United Press International's list of what's in and what's out for 1988

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| In | Out |
| Main Street | Wall Street |
| Glasnost | Reaganomics |
| Van Wagons | Volvos |
| Suburban living | City living |
| Wider ties | Power ties |
| Cash | Credit |
| Gary Hart | Gary Hart |
| Sugar | Nutrasweet |
| Chicago | Paris |
| Fountain pens | Felt-tipped pens |
| Trains | Planes |
| Walking | Jogging |
| Poor urban professionals | Young urban professionals |
| Sunblock | Freckles |
| Suction liposomy | Collagen injections |
| Backaches | Muscle fatigue |
| Party girls | Feminists |
| Greenhouse effect | El Nino |
| Dennis Hopper | Mickey Rourke |
| Michael Douglas | Michael J. Fox |
| Flip flops | Reeboks |
| L.A. Law | Cosby |
| High heels | Sensible shoes |
| Antarctic ozone hole | Acid rain |
| Pears | Kiwifruit |
| Sexual Dysfunction | Marital infidelity |
| Mini-skirts | Mini-skirts |
| AIDS screening | Urine tests |
| Conventional weaponry | SDI |
| Oliver Stone | Woody Allen |
| Crime Story | Miami Vice |
| Seamed stockings | Anklets |
| Fireplaces | Wood stoves |
| French manicures | Sculpted nails |
| Certificates of deposit | Home Equity loans |
| Long hair | Perms |
| Pictionary | Trivial pursuit |
| Tom Selleck | Don Johnson |
| Johnny | Oprah, Phil |
| Destiny | Nostalgia |

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Glenn Close | Kathleen Turner |
| Kirstie Alley | Shelley Long |
| Danney Coleman | Bruce Willis |
| Capt. Picard | Capt. Kirk |
| Butter | Margarine |
| C. Everett Koop | Shere Hite |
| Feminine dresses | Dress for success |
| Bloom county | Doonesbury |
| Jeopardy | Wheel of fortune |
| Fat Sajak | Vanna White |
| Couch potatoes | Fitness freaks |
| Analog | Digital |
| Larry King | Paul Harvey |
| Susan Dey | Cybill Shepherd |
| Doctors | Lawyers |
| Mikhail and Raisa | Chuck and Di |
| Muffins | Croissants |
| Spalding Gray | Garrison Keillor |
| Daniel Inouye | Oliver North |
| Weekend vacations | 60-hour work weeks |
| Common sense | Life in the fast lane |
| Showy engagement rings | Pre-nuptial agreements |
| Mr Potato head | Slinky |
| Liberal arts degrees | MBAS |
| US Congress | The President |
| Summits | Medium-range missiles |
| Russians | Australians |
| Michael Jordan | Dr J |
| Columbia | SMU |
| Grateful Dead | Run DMC |
| Accountability | Deniability |
| Crystals | Astral projection |
| Fruit Juice Sparklers | Wine coolers |
| Curves | Starvation |
| Shriver-Schwarzenegger | Penn-Madonna |
| Donald Trump | Lee Iacocca |
| Sunday school | Televangelists |
| Big screen TV | Personal computers |
| McGruff | Spuds MacKenzie |
| CNN | Home shopping network |
| Anti-lock brakes | Automatic seat belts |
| Range Rover | Cadillac Allante |
| Cher | Sigourney Weaver |
| Lee Hart | Donna Rice |
| Microwave | Cuisinart |
| Al Capone | Geraldo Rivera |
| Liz Taylor | Joan Collins |
| Cilantro | Basil |
| Jay Leno | Eddie Murphy |
| Afghanistan | Nicaragua |
| Tom Brokaw | Dan Rather |
| Rat Pack | Brat Pack |
| Peanut Butter | Sushi |
| Rudolph Giuliani | Ivan Boesky |

Christian Lacroix made 'couture' in fashion again 1987: the year of rising hemlines

By Melissa Sones

1987 was the year hemlines went up or at least tried to. It was the year newspapers asked, "how far up?" And then printed the inches. It was the year papers pondered, "Do the women of America have to do this like they had to do it years ago, before they were liberated?"

It was the year the press printed pictures of Gloria Steinem, Diane Sawyer and Liz Smith saying yes, no, no, in that order, as if their gams have anything to do with yours or mine.

And it was the year many women found themselves counting long and short on the street and then saying to their friends, "I don't know, Annie, I still see lots of long."

So what was up in '87? Well, first what wasn't up was a plot by clothing manufacturers to make your wardrobe a bad joke and then make millions. If they thought long would sell, you'd see long.

No, it's not a plot to save money by using less fabric. The simple truth is that fashion, since the dark ages, has gone in five — to seven-year cycles. It has also tended to take its inspiration from major designers. On the street, the hip types have worn short skirts for a long time and on the runways around the world, short isn't exactly brand-new either.

Some designers did short so long ago that many of them, when you ask what's up for next year, can hardly remember.

What's probably up is the lag time between when designers, the street and then the companies that knock them off or copy them, come up with something and when the mainstream accepts it.

For instance, Azzedine Alaia came up with skin-tight clothes in dark colors like black or brown made of stretch fabric years ago. Now, the streets of many cities are filled with people wearing outfits that in one way or another come from that idea and Alaia is no longer doing tight clothes.

What will probably happen is that eventually, much more

slowly than manufacturers and designers thought, hems will rise. They will not rise to miniskirt level. They will rise to the middle or the top of the knee and look perfectly acceptable on most people.

Where that leaves the question of women vs. fashion dictates is hard to say, but it leaves them with the option to keep wearing long skirts even though all of the 1988 spring fashion shows in October showed short with almost no exception.

What seemed most absent in 1987 were stylish clothes for working women. Nevermind short or long, give them something decent to buy in the first place.

Another important question women asked this year was, "Why are clothes so expensive?" Why is a blouse that isn't even special selling for \$160? Manufacturers say that prices rose all along the fashion chain, from textile manufacturers on up, that the dollar drop raised fabric and European clothing prices.

Probably a correct enough explanation, but women need strong fashion incentive — maybe more than just a hemline, which after all they can take up on something old — to spend top dollar.

The other 1987 fashion news can be summed up in the name "Christian Lacroix."

The much-hyped French designer who does pouf dresses in bizarre color combinations left his roost at Jean Patou, a fuddy-duddy French design house, and went into hipper business for himself, hoping one day to become as successful as Ralph Lauren.

The fuss over Lacroix is explained best in terms of fashion although it has sociological meaning, too. Fashion editors adored his clothes when they saw them in Paris in 1986. Up close, they look a lot more like theatre costumes than apparel, which explains why Mikhail Baryshnikov asked Lacroix to design costumes for the American ballet theatre.

Fashion-wise, Lacroix is credited with helping to re-



Mini-skirts were shown at all important shows for the winter '87/spring '88 collections, while Christian Lacroix (inset) was the hottest designer of the year.

awaken the 'couture' or the made-to-order branch of fashion where the world's wealthiest women fly to Paris and spend upwards of \$20,000 for a single dress.



In: Gary Hart

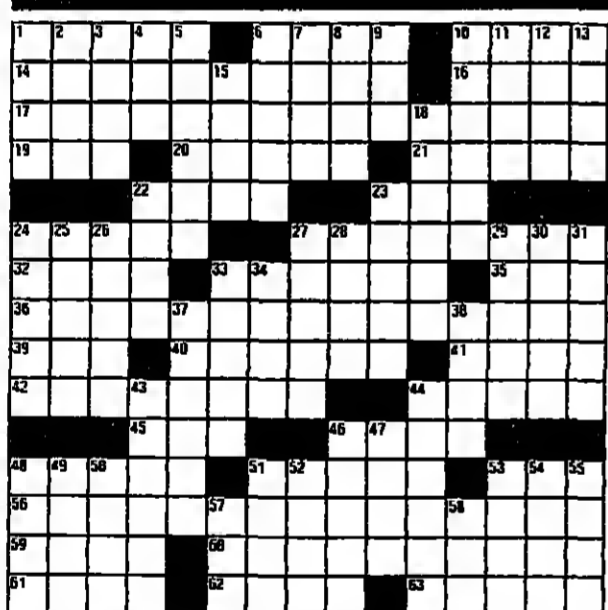


In: Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev



In: Liz Taylor

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 "An": That a —, Fats
 - 2 Domino
 - 3 Kind of jockey
 - 4 Name for a Dalmatian
 - 5 A Winter Olympian
 - 6 Ponce pony
 - 7 With 36 across, a man's complaint to God
 - 8 Cartoonist Gardner
 - 9 Nobel reward
 - 10 Edged like a leaf
 - 11 — the east and Juliet
 - 12 Mr. Sprat's no-no
 - 13 Michelangelo subject
 - 14 Steinbeck's "Sweet — 1954"
 - 15 Maple tree's genus
 - 16 3,500,000 sq. mi. of sand
 - 17 E.T.'s ship?
 - 18 Man's complaint continues
 - 19 Australian ratite
 - 20 Spookier
 - 21 Polypour
 - 22 Nurseryman at times
 - 23 Necessities
 - 24 Classified ad. w/d
 - 25 Autocrat ruler
 - 26 Steps in a pasture
 - 27 Canary's cousin
 - 28 Oklahoma!
 - 29 God's response to the man
- DOWN
- 1 Child's direction
 - 2 Its springs eternal
 - 3 Narrow pass at a mesa's edge
 - 4 Extinct New Zealand bird
 - 5 — and Under — pyramid
 - 6 Actress Betta
 - 7 Mother of Don Juan
 - 8 Withrad
 - 9 — the Beloved Country
 - 10 Some are stilled
 - 11 Half of Samoa's capital
 - 12 Der
 - 13 London gallery
 - 14 Freki and —
 - 15 Odin's wolves
 - 16 — hand (close)
 - 17 Yesterday, to Pelini
 - 18 Page
 - 19 Etolian's parent
 - 20 — All Ye Faithful
 - 21 Have in the cage
 - 22 — Finest Hour
 - 23 Churchill
 - 24 Heery's sidekick
 - 25 Swashbuckler's

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ONE MORE FOR THE TROPHY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 7 6 3 2
♥ 10 5 2
♦ A K 8 3

WEST
♠ K J 10 6 3
♥ Void
♦ Q 9 8 6
♣ Q 10 7 2

EAST
♠ 9 5 4
♥ J 10 8
♦ A 7 4 3
♣ J 9 6

SOUTH
♠ A 8 7 2
♥ A K 9 5 4
♦ K J
♣ S 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♣

Some hands appeal to us for the brilliance of their execution. Others for their clarity of thought. Some we find amusing, while on others a position arises that tickles our fan-

cy. This hand, from a recent pair tournament in New York, is one of the latter.

North-South bid well to a reasonable heart slam. North's jump cuebid in spades showed a singleton with game-going values in hearts. Two black-suit cue-bids were all that were needed to convince South he would have good play for six hearts.

Since a spade lead would get the defense nowhere, West elected to lead a diamond, solving one of declarer's problems for him. Declarer won the diamond continuation and, since he could claim his slam if trumps broke 2-1, he cashed the ace of hearts.

The 3-0 split presented more than a minor annoyance. Declarer cashed the ace of spades, ruffed a spade and came back to hand with a diamond ruff. Instead of trumping another spade he first cashed the ace-king of clubs and ruffed a club. When he now ruffed a spade in dummy, all hands were reduced to three cards. Dummy was down to the Q-7 of hearts and a club, East held J-10 of trumps and a diamond, and declarer K-9 of hearts and a spade. With the lead on the board, declarer led the club and East could only gnash his teeth helplessly. If he didn't ruff, declarer would ruff low and score the last two tricks with top trumps. But trumping proved no better. Declarer simply overruffed and dummy's trumps took the last two tricks.

Declarer's never-give-up philosophy resulted in a top score and a close win over a good field.



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 21 - April 20)
You should not allow anything to interfere with your independence. You must keep calm when dealing with a rather tempestuous character. Do not place too much reliance on your intuitive powers.
- Taurus (April 21 - May 20)
You would do well to do all you can to foster friendships. Do not allow others to pull the wool over your eyes. Make sure you do not break a promise. Be cordial.
- Gemini (May 21 - June 20)
You should ensure your expenditure does not exceed your income. Do not expect to have all things quite your own way. Make sure you do not do anything that would be injurious to your health.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
You will be able to keep your wits about you. Make sure you wear the right clothes for the occasion and the climate. Do not get your priorities out of order. Be amenable.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)
You will be better able to take the initiative but you must also get your direction right. You will have something to be pleased about. You have no time to lose. Be correct.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)
Leave yourself with enough time and leisure for your cultural interests. You must avoid trying to do too many things all at once. There is no reason to give up trying to do your best. Be resilient.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)
You should not allow your zeal to be dispersed over too large an area of effort. The more you can do for yourself the better it will be. Make sure you do not allow your attention to wander when driving.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
You should avoid becoming involved in something that does not really concern you. Think a little longer and harder before you decide on what to do. A little more commonsense is what is needed right now. Be fair.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
You will be better able to deal with a rather complicated problem. Others will be more favorably inclined towards you. Do not leave to these others what you should really do for yourself. Be moderate.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
You will be better able to make progress at work. Your personal life too will take a turn for the better. A small disagreement should not be allowed to degenerate into a major quarrel. Be sensible.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You should do your level best to maintain and increase harmony with your partner. Make sure you do not get into an argument. If you feel tired do try to get some extra rest. Be consistent.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)
You will succeed better than your wildest dreams. But do not allow success to go to your head. You will have something to be pleased about.

JUNIOR TIMES

Dear Junior Readers,

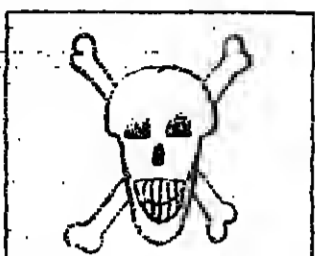
We hope you are enjoying the mystery "The Curse of the Lost Idol" and that you are helping Annie solve each week's puzzle. Clues and evidence lurk in the words and pictures so read and look at the pictures carefully.

When Eric and the Professor find the lost idol of pure gold they become responsible for protecting it and Annie later becomes innocently involved.

In each Junior Times there is a new clue for you to solve. Follow these clues and help the Professor, Eric and Annie solve the ultimate mystery of the idol's curse.

Aunt Barbara

Doctor, doctor



Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a doorknob. All right, don't fly off the handle.

Doctor, doctor, I feel like an old sock. Well, I'll be darned.

Doctor, doctor, I can't stop doing crosswords.

What's wrong? I haven't a clue.

Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a ventriloquist. You're far too old to have a dummy.

Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm still at school. Sit down and I'll give you an examination.

Doctor, doctor, everyone thinks I'm a cricket ball. How's that? Not you as well!

Doctor, doctor, my aunt has a sore throat. Give her this bottle of antibiotic.

Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a Swiss roll and custard.

No wonder you're a trifle unwell.

THERE was once an old miller who had neither wife nor children, but only three apprentices, who helped with the work in the mill. 'I am no longer young,' he said to them one day, 'and my sole desire is to sit quietly by the fire. Out you go into the world, and I shall gladly hand over the mill to the boy who brings me the finest horse. In return I shall expect him to look after me until my death.'

Now the youngest of the three, whose name was Jack, was considered rather a stupid fellow by the two older boys. All three left the mill together, but when they were a mile or so from the village the older two tried to chase Jack away, saying: 'We don't want you with us, Jack — you'll never find a horse in a million years!'

But Jack followed along behind, and when night fell they turned into a little cave for shelter. The two older ones waited till Jack was asleep, then off they crept and left him lying there.

When daylight came Jack found himself deserted and he was quite scared, for he had not the least idea where he was. He went out of the cave and scrambled over some boulders into the forest, thinking to himself: 'Here I am alone and without a friend

The poor miller's boy and the cat

in the whole wide world. How on earth can I find a horse?' As he wandered through the trees lost in thought, he met a little spotted cat, who smiled at him.

'Where are you going, Jack?' she asked. 'You won't be able to help me?' he replied ungraciously.

'I know very well what it is that you want,' said the cat. 'You are looking for fine horses! Come and serve me for seven years, and I will give you the most beautiful horse in the world.'

'What a strange cat!' thought Jack. But he agreed to go with her all the same.

She took him to her enchanted castle, where she had cats to wait on her, running nimbly up and down stairs, having a fine merry time. In the evening at dinner-time three of them made music: one played the double-bass and one the violin, while the third blew the trumpet. When the meal was over, the table was carried away and the tabby cat said: 'Come now, Jack, and dance with me.'

No,' he replied. 'I have never danced with a cat.' Then take him to bed,' she said to the cats.

One day she said to him, 'Go out and mow my meadow and spread out the hay to dry.' For this purpose she gave him a silver scythe and a golden whetstone. So off Jack went to the meadow, mowed the hay and spread it out to dry. When he had finished, he took the scythe and whetstone back to the house and asked if he could have his reward.

'No,' said the cat, 'there is something else you must do for me. I want you to

build me a little house. Here are planks and rafters, and all the materials and tools you will need — all of silver.'

So Jack built the little silver house. When it was ready he said to her that he had done everything she had told him, and he still had no horse, yet the seven years had already passed.

'Would you like to see my horses, Jack?' asked the cat.

'Yes, please!' said Jack. She opened the doors of

the little silver house, and there stood twelve silver horses, gleaming and glittering, the most beautiful horses he had ever seen.

'Go home now,' she said, and she gave him food and drink to take with him. 'I cannot give you your horse yet, but I will follow with it in three days' time.'

She pointed out the way to the mill, and Jack set out. But all the time he had been with her, she had not given him any new clothes, and he was still wearing the worn and patched old things which he had brought with him seven years previously, and which were now far too small for him.

When he reached the mill he found that the other two boys had arrived before him, with their horses; but one horse was blind, and the other lame.

'Where is your horse, Jack?' they asked. 'It will be following in three days' time.'

'Indeed,' they laughed. 'It must be a fine horse that can come on its own!'

On the morning after the three days had gone by, there rolled up to the mill a coach drawn by six silver horses, gleaming and glittering, with a serving man following behind with a seventh horse, which was for the poor miller's boy. The door of the coach

opened and out stepped a beautiful princess, and this princess was the spotted cat whom Jack had served for seven years. She went into the mill and asked for him.

'We could not have him in the mill,' said the miller. 'He was so tattered and torn that we had to put him in the goose-hut.'

The princess told them to fetch him, so they went and brought him to her. A footman laid out magnificent clothes for him, and he had to wash and change; and when he was ready no king could have looked more smart and handsome. The princess called her serving-man to bring the seventh horse before the miller, saying: 'This is for the miller's third apprentice.'

Then he must have the mill,' exclaimed the miller.

But the princess laughed and said, 'Keep your mill!' She took Jack by the hand and led him to her coach, and they drove away.

They drove to the little silver house which he had built for her with the silver tools. But it had turned into a great castle, in which everything was made of silver. So they were married, and he was so rich that he had more than enough for the rest of his life, and they lived very happily together.



Cats and dogs

1. What is unique about Manx cats, and where did the breed originate?

2. Who was Cerberus?

3. Who described the archcriminal cat in these terms? Macavity's a Mystery Cat; he's called the Hidden Paw: for he's the master criminal who can defy the Law. He's the bafflement of Scotland Yard, the Flying Squad's despair:

For when they reach the scene of crime — Macavity's not there!

4. Who were the respective owners of Diamond, Flush, and Toto?

5. Can you give the origin of the phrase 'not enough room to swing a cat'?

6. According to the US Public Health Service, what are the three breeds of dog that bite the least? The most?

7. What was the name of the fictional cat who suddenly showed a surprising ability to understand and speak the English language, and then proceeded thoroughly to unnerve a proper English houseparty by commenting acidly on the activities and characters of the various houseguests?

8. Weimaraner dogs were first bred in Germany for hunting stags in which peculiar fashion?

9. What are seal-points and blue-points?

10. What have mad dogs and Englishmen in common, according to whom?

Answers: 1. Manx cats, which are practically tailless, came from the Isle of Man. 2. In ancient mythology Cerberus was the many-headed dog who guarded the gates of Hades. 3. T. S. Eliot, in *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*. 4. Sir Isaac Newton, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and Dorothy, in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. 5. This is a relic of the age of sail, when sailors were punished by means of a nine-tailed whip, called a 'cat-o-nine-tails', which left welts like the scratches of a huge cat. Since there was 'not enough room to swing a cat' belowdecks, the punishment was administered topside. 6. Golden retriever and Shetland sheepdog. German police dog (known in Britain as the German shepherd dog or Alsatian), chow and poodle. 7. *Tobermory*, in the short story of the same name by Saki (*H. H. Munro*). 8. They were trained to leap at a stag's genitals and rip them off. 9. Types of Siamese cats. Seal-points have a pale fawn coat, while blue-points have a grey one. Both types have darker ears, face, tail, and feet. 10. As Noel Coward said, 'Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun'.

Firsts and lasts

GRAFFITI in the form of words written on public buildings was written before Christ.

In Munich, Germany, there is a brewery that first started selling beer in 1397 — it is still selling it now.

A man called Samuel Morse was an artist who exhibited paintings in London in 1811. He is not known for his painting nowadays, but for the Morse code he invented in 1872.

England's first steam-powered warships were built in 1833.

'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' was the world's first horror film.

In 1801 the first true locomotive ran at Pen-y-darrian. It transported seventy people 15 km to the Glamorganshire Canal.

The first crocus flower sprang from the blood of a boy in Greek mythology called 'Crocus'. He was playing a game with hoops with the god Mercury and was killed.

The last wish of the Indian ruler Khanjahan was to be buried in a conical tomb, and to have his hand extending out of it — so that he could continue his favourite pastime of shaking hands even after his death.

President Jimmy Carter was the first American president to be born in a hospital. The others were all born at home.

The first reason why there were 'best men' at weddings was that, in ancient times, a bridegroom set out to 'capture' his bride and always took a strong man along to help carry her off. Now all the best man carries is the wedding ring.

In many cities in Europe the first thing a doctor will prescribe to a patient who has had a stomach operation is champagne. Not all the patients can afford this ideal diet — so they eat beef broth instead!

In the last ten years of the nineteenth century the water supply in London was so limited that some of the more wealthy people's carriages were washed in champagne, wine being so plentiful.

The curse of the lost idol

THE next day, Annie and all other passengers (except for the nameless one) set off for the buried chamber.

Professor Pott led them off the boat along a dusty path into the desert. It was baking hot and Annie longed to stop at one of the refreshment stands beside the road. In the distance she saw some rocky hills and wondered how much further it was. She panted on, passing ruins on her left and an oasis on her right. Further on, they took a left turn and came to a building surrounded by fallen masonry. This was the Temple of the Moon God. Just beyond it was the entrance to the buried chamber.

Annie made the perilous descent down the rope ladder into the buried chamber. She gazed at the smooth, flat, walls covered in paintings. She was surprised by the soft sandy floor. Then she saw the idol — gleaming in the gloomy light. The Professor told everyone to stand back. Dr Boffin pulled out his magnifying glass and was

about to examine the idol when...all of a sudden, the chamber was plunged into total darkness. Disembodied screams of shock rang out through the blackness. Annie could see nothing so she listened instead. She heard the Professor's voice and in the background there was a strange, scraping, digging sound. Suddenly, without warning, the light came back. All at once, Annie knew something was wrong... very wrong. The idol was missing!

With a sickening jolt, Annie remembered the mystery message. Too late. Drusilla broke the awful silence with a wail and panic broke out as everyone rushed for the ladder. Annie thought fast. Was there anything she could do? There was only one thing. Hastily she took a few snaps with her instant camera. Maybe they would contain clues that would lead to the thief.

At the top of the shaft everything was dark — not pitch black, but thick and murky. A vicious wind was blowing and Annie's skin

was stung by sharp grains of flying sand. The wind had suddenly whipped up a fierce sandstorm.

Annie could not see much — just a few shadowy figures. But she heard something that sent an icy shiver down her spine. Right next to her, a man and a woman were speaking in hoarse whispers. As she heard the man speak, she knew she was listening to the voice of whoever had stolen the idol. Both voices were familiar. They were passengers on the boat, but she didn't know exactly who they belonged to.

The thief said no more. Instead she heard the others, all talking at once. The Professor was urging everyone not to panic and Drusilla was wailing as usual. In addition, Annie definitely identified the voices of two other passengers. That left just four passengers as possible suspects.

Whose voice did Annie identify?

Who are the possible suspects?



The curse! The curse! The ancient gods have sent this storm to curse us all.

H-h-h-help. I-d-d-don't like s-s-sandstorms.

Drusilla. — Annie heard her wailing as usual, just as she did in the chamber.

Terry Trubble — he has a terrible stutter.

It's all right... Don't panic! It's just a sandstorm... Keep calm... Follow me.

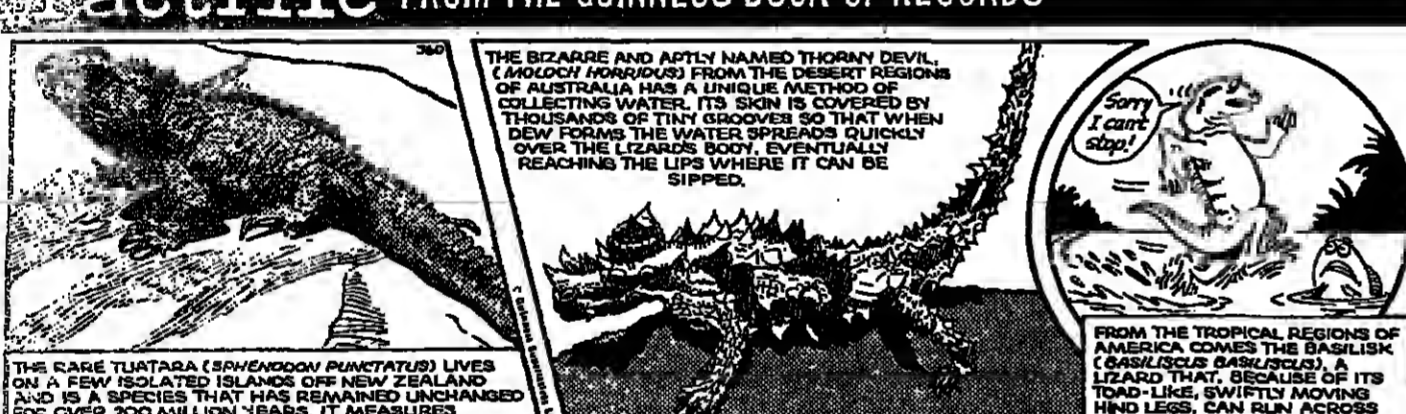
Ma che scemo! Mama mia!

The Professor — Annie recognized his voice urging everyone not to panic.

Luigi Macaroni — his Italian gives him away.

Annie recognises the voices of Professor Pott, Drusilla IP, Calia, Luigi Macaroni and Terry Trubble. These four can be ruled out as suspects. This leaves Dr Boffin, Sam Scoop, Devilla de Visp and Harriet Flash as possible suspects.

Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS



THE BIZARRE AND APTLY NAMED THORN DEVIL, A NOCTURNAL HORROROUS FROM THE DESERT REGIONS OF AUSTRALIA HAS A UNIQUE METHOD OF COLLECTING WATER. ITS SKIN IS COVERED BY THOUSANDS OF TINY GOOBERIES SO THAT WHEN DRY FORMS THE WATER SPREADS QUICKLY OVER THE LIZARD'S BODY, EVENTUALLY REACHING THE LIPS WHERE IT CAN BE SIPPED.

FROM THE TROPICAL REGIONS OF AMERICA COMES THE BASILISK (BASILIOSCU BASTARDUS), A LIZARD THAT, BECAUSE OF ITS TOAD-LIKE, SWIFTLY MOVING HANDS, CAN RUN ACROSS THE SURFACE OF WATER AT SPEEDS OF 72 mph (72 km/h).

THE LONGEST AFTER-DINNER SPEECH, WHEN THE SPEAKER WAS NOT INTENDING TO BREAK RECORDS, WAS ONE LASTING 8 HOURS BY THE REV JENNY WHITEHEAD (22 MARCH 1876) AT THE RAINBOW TAVERN, 51, ST. LONDON ON 15 JAN 1874.

DONALD H BURROS OF ST GEORGE'S, BERMUDA WON THE LONGEST CRY TROPHY IN THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL TOWN SINGERS CHAMPIONSHIP IN HANOVER, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA ON 15 SEP 1974 WITH A SHOUT RECORDED AT 115 DECIBELS.

THE WORLD RECORD CRACKING CHAMPION IS T. R. (78M) BENDER OF CHICAGO, WHO TOOK JONES UNREMITTLY FOR 48-50 MIN IN THE WINDOW OF THE MARSHALL FIELD STORE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, USA FROM 11-12 NOV 1961.

On and off

The illusion: Someone else threads a length of string through a rubber band, and holds both ends of the string very tightly. You cover the band with a handkerchief and make a few mysterious movements under the cloth. When you remove the handkerchief the band is now knotted around the centre of the string. Reaching over, you very gently pull on the band and it comes completely free of the cord.

The preparation: The one reason you are able to do the trick is the one thing your audience never suspects — the rubber band comes apart and goes back together.

Take a rubber band about two to three inches long and one-eighth of an inch wide and cut it through the centre of either end with a sharp pair of scissors (1). Now put a small dab of rubber cement on the cut surface of each end and let it dry. Stick the two ends firmly together so you don't see any crack where it's been cut. Have ready a piece of string about two feet long and a handkerchief and you're all set.

The trick: Hand one end of the string to someone, thread the rubber band onto it, and give the person the other end of the string, too. As he holds the string stretched between his hands, cover it with the handkerchief (2). Now reach

under the cloth and pull the two ends of the band apart. Remove the band from the string, press the two ends back together, and the cement will make them stick once again. Pull one end of the band around the string and push it through the loop formed by the other end (3).

Remove the handkerchief to show the band, apparently now knotted onto the string. Pull on the short loop and the band will come off the string into your hand. Do you think that was really magic or is that stretching it?



ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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FARWANIYA, Kheitan, Kuwait City. Share one room in a 2 bedroom flat near bus route. With a meal for R.C. Mangrorean or Goan couple/family. Tele. Fernandes 4813465. (AT2-40366-3)

Available

FARWANIYA, (near Holiday Inn). Single room for a working girl to share with a small Indian family. Bus 21, 22, 39, 41. Rent KD30. Tele. 2444654. 8 am - 12 noon. (AT2-40364-3)

KEIFAN, Block 4, House 41, Ibn Hisham St. Accommodation for an Indian R.C. bachelor to share with another bachelor. Rent KD 25. Tele. Louis 4847165. (AT1-40354-6)

SALWA, House 196, Block 7, (behind Iran shop). Two rooms with kitchen, water and electricity for family/bachelors to share with an Indian family. Rent KD 50, 30. Tele. 5611243. (AT1-40354-6)

SHAMIYA, one CAC room, with a meal, for two Indian bachelors to share with another Indian bachelor. Rent KD55. Tele. 5612336. 10 am - 12 noon only. (AT4-40355-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq (near Fire Station). Sharing accommodation for a Keralite bachelor. Tele. 2443469 after 2 pm. (AT2-40368-3)

RAS Salmiya (behind Farah Restaurant, near cinema). One room for a single bachelor/working lady. Rent KD45. Tele. Janess, 5721684. 6 - 8 pm. (AT4-40342-3)

FAIHA (near cooperative). Two rooms with kitchen for families or working girls. Tele. Mr. Javard, 2546022, 2546213, 2546413. 8 am - 2 pm. (AT4-40342-3)

KUWAIT City, (opp. G.P.O.). One room with water, electricity and tele. for working girls or small family. Rent KD35 each. Tele. Mr. Gaikwad, 2415728. 3 - 11 pm. (AT4-40346-3)

For Rent

BENIED Al Qar. Fully furnished ground floor flat 2 bedrooms, dining and drawing room with tele. Available from 1.2.88. Contents of flat for sale. Rent KD190. Tele. 2543326. (AT4-40334-3)

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Cars

BMW 520i 83 model, 48000 kms, sports gear shifting, red, in good condition. Tele. 5640172. (AT2-40372-3)

JAGUAR XJ6, 1979, no engine, needs new blue book. KD 150. Tele. 3947584, 3.30 - 7 pm. (AT3-40312-6)

HYUNDAI (Pony) 1983 model, automatic, radio, cassette, AC, registered upto Nov 1988 in very good condition. KD400. Tele. 5747051. (AT4-40335-1)

MITSUBISHI Colt GLX 1985, manual, 5 speed hatchback, 4 doors, white, AC, radio, cassette, 47,000 kms, well-maintained. KD 850. Tele. 3989111, ext. 7081, 7 am - 4 pm; 3715354 after 4 pm. (AT3-40331-3)

Miscellaneous

YARMOUK, fully furnished studio flat for sale. New rent KD 130, includes electricity, water, swimming pool, maintenance, AC, separate entrance through courtyard and private tele. Tele. 5336310. (AT3-40307-3)

TECHNICS electric organ, KD 110. Sinclair computer with software, KD 40, speakers JVC KD 15.2 table lamps, KD 10. Olympus AF camera, KD 30. Tele. 5620680, 3268083. (AT3-40310-3)

SOFA set, carpets and curtains, 3 children's beds with wardrobes, washing machine, cooker, dryer, refrigerator, KD 800. Tele. Mr. Robby, 4743152. 7 am - 3 pm, 5386647, 4 - 6 pm. (AT3-40313-6)

LOST

PASSPORTS: in the name of Neetu Singh Ahluwalia, and Sunny Singh Ahluwalia, Indians. Tele. 4886530 or contact the Indian Embassy. (AT2-40304-3)

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MATHEMATICS, upto Std VIII, given by a lady in Jabriya (near New Indian School). Tele. 5332276, after 10 am. (AT3-40309-3)

Transport

REQUIRED from Salmiya to the City. 8 am 1 pm and 4-7 pm. Tele. Mr. Johar 5623425. 5.30 pm onwards. (AT2-40371-3)

REQUIRED from Salmiya to Kuwait, Muthanna Complex; 8.30 am, 12.30 pm, 4 pm, 8 pm. Tele. Mr. Hadi, 4835205, 4843118. (AT4-40330-3)

REQUIRED for two ladies from Abbasiya to Shuwaikh, Arab Times office, at 10:30 am, return at 7 pm. (Thursday holiday). Working Friday. Tele. 4813566, ext. 287, 11 am - 7 pm. (AT4-D-TM-3)

SITUATIONS

Wanted

DRIVER, Indian, 10 years experience in Kuwait with light driving licence seeks job. Tele. 2460265, after 10.30 am. (AT3-40317-3)

MAID, Indian, 6 years experience, hard-working with valid residence, seeks job. Transferable visa. To live-in. Tele. 3984261, 8 am - 2 pm, 5639946 after 3.30 pm. (AT4-40343-1)

MAID, Sri Lankan, hard-working, presently working for an English family, seeks live-in employment with European family. Excellent references. Tele. 5622607. (AT3-40249-3)

DRIVER, experienced, with an Indian heavy duty driving licence, looking for a suitable job in Kuwait. Tele. Mr. Chacko 5630348. (AT2-40373-3)

WANTED

a photographer Must have previous experience and transferable residence. Applicant to contact immediately. Tel. No. 5389737 Boyan Coop. Society Photographer shop Salary according to qualification.

HOUSEBOY, Sri Lankan, with transferable visa No. 18 and references, seeks job immediately. Tele. Mrs. Haseena Abdullah, c/o Sudath Amarasingha, 4830866, 6 am - 1 pm. (AT3-40318-3)

MAID, 5 years experience with valid residence, seeks job with foreign family. Needs accommodation for the husband. Tele. 5513927. (AT3-40318-3)

MICRO computer operator, experienced in Lotus/Wordstar/developing application programmes in DBase III Cobol, Basic and also well-versed in all office work, seeks job. Tele. 5632288. (AT4-40323-3)

Vacant

MAID required for a family to do household work. Must have a transferable visa. Tele. 48710258. (AT3-40355-3)

MAID required, Filipino, full-time. Must have experience in cooking. Immediate transferable visa. Tele. 3918959. (AT4-40339-3)

MAID required for a Keralite family with one child. To live-in in Hilton area. Must have a transferable residence. Tele. 2548938, after 4.30 pm, or any time on Thursday, Friday. (AT4-40345-3)

NANNY required to take care of a baby. To live-in. Must be experienced with children. Speak English fluently and have transferable residence. Tele. 2530000, ext. 415. 10 am - 12 noon, 5 - 7 pm. (AT4-40344-3)

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SPORTS

Porto open four-point gap at top

LISBON, Dec 28, (Reuters): Porto strengthened their Portuguese Soccer League title challenge with an easy 2-0 home win against lowly-placed Penafiel yesterday to go four points clear at the top.

European champions Porto, who won the World Club Soccer Championship in Tokyo two weeks ago, have 23 points and a game in hand over nearest rivals Benfica and Boavista, second and third respectively on 19.

Porto were without Algerian international striker Rabah Madjer — he has joined Spain's Valencia for six months before starting a three-year contract with Bayern Munich next July — but effectively settled the outcome in the first half.

The northern team seized the lead through a headed goal by striker Fernando Gomes in the seventh minute and extended their lead with another header in the 38th minute, from Brazilian Celso.

Defence

Defending champions Benfica again disappointed their fans with a goalless home draw against Braga. The Lisbon side were thwarted by the well-organised defence of Braga, one of the lowest-placed teams in the First Division.

Benfica's best chance came in the 50th minute when Swedish striker Mats Magnusson hit the bar.

Boavista beat Espinho 1-0 with a goal by Jorge Andrade in the 31st minute of their home clash to go level on points with Benfica.

Guimaraes, who won 3-0 at home to Farense, are in fourth place, five points behind leaders Porto.

Rush faces hefty fine by Juventus

TURIN, Italy, Dec 28, (Reuters): Welsh international striker Ian Rush, whose indifferent form with Juventus this season has been widely criticised in Italy, could face a hefty fine after he returns to work late for the third time this season.

Officials at the First Division club said Rush, who has scored only three league goals this season, had not returned from his Christmas break as arranged for training yesterday and had not informed the club he would be late.

A club spokesman said Rush appeared for a training session this morning.

Italian sports papers reported that Juventus director Giampiero Boniperti was furious and said he was likely to fine Rush five million lire (\$3,300).

"This time, Rush must justify himself to me," manager Rino Marchesi was quoted as saying. "I want to hear his excuses."

"Rush has an extended holiday. Juventus can't stand it any more," La Gazzetta dello Sport said in a headline, adding that other players were making jokes about the Welshman, a prolific scorer with his former club Liverpool.

"He's a ghost — he's there but nobody can see him," one unnamed player was quoted as saying, echoing jokes made about Rush's recent weekly match performances.

"Maybe he's on leave again — like he is every Sunday," said another.

Courier brushes aside Cherkasov

MIAMI BEACH, Florida, Dec 28, (AP): Top seeded Jim Courier of the United States dominated the Soviet Union's second-seeded Andrei Cherkasov 6-2, 6-2 yesterday to capture the boys' 18 title of the Orange Bowl International Tennis Championships.

It was the second consecutive year the pair met in the championship round, with the same result.

Paradis shatters schoolgirl's dreams

BRISBANE, Dec 28, (Reuters): Petite Pascale Paradis shattered a schoolgirl's dreams at the Brisbane Women's Tennis Classic today in a fight to save her own career.

The 21-year-old Frenchwoman disposed of 15-year-old Australian Kerry-Anne Guse 6-2, 6-0 in just 35 minutes.

Guse, an Australian Junior Masters finalist, was a surprise wild-card entry and the second youngest Australian to make her international debut at the age of 15 years and 23 days.

But Paradis, a Federation Cup player, was unsympathetic as she worked to claw her way back to her career-best position of 25th in world rankings.

"I was playing so badly for nearly two years that I was thinking of giving it up," Paradis said afterwards.

OILERS CLINCH FINAL AFC WILD-CARD BERTH

49ers and Colts capture division crowns

NEW YORK, Dec 28, (AP): Wide receiver Jerry Rice and three running backs, veteran Eric Dickerson and rookies Alonzo Highsmith and Paul Palmer, settled the final NFL playoffs spots yesterday.

Rice capped his record-breaking year with two touchdown passes to help lead the San Francisco 49ers in a 48-0 victory over the Los Angeles Rams and the NFC West Division title.

Dickerson rushed for 196 yards and scored twice to lead the Indianapolis Colts to a 24-6 victory over Tampa Bay and the AFC East title.

Performance

Charles White of the Rams won the NFL's individual rushing title with a 95-yard performance against the 49ers that gave him 1,374 yards for the season.

Highsmith scored the first two touchdowns of his NFL career as the Houston Oilers downed Cincinnati 21-17 and clinched the final AFC wild-card berth.

Palmer returned a kickoff 92 yards for a touchdown as Kansas City upset Seattle 41-20, giving the Denver Broncos the AFC West Division title.

Minnesota got the final NFC wild card when the Dallas Cowboys, with Herschel Walker scoring twice, beat the St. Louis Cardinals 21-16.

In other games yesterday, it was Philadelphia 17, Buffalo 7; Detroit 30, Atlanta 13; New

Orleans 33, Green Bay 24; the New York Giants 20, the New York Jets 7; Denver 24, San Diego 0; and Chicago 6, the Los Angeles Raiders 3.

The regular season was to wind up this evening with New England at Miami.

On Saturday, Washington edged Minnesota 27-24 in overtime and Cleveland defeated Pittsburgh 19-13 to win the AFC Central title.

49ers 48, Rams 0

Rice finished the regular season with 23 touchdowns, 22 on receptions and one rushing. That left him one short of the NFL single-season record of 24 touchdowns set by Washington fullback John Riggins in 1983. He set league records with his 22 scoring receptions and also by catching touchdown passes in 13 consecutive games.

Colts 24, Bucs 6

Dickerson, whose midseason acquisition transformed Indianapolis into a serious contender, led the Colts to the AFC East title and their first playoff berth in a decade. Dickerson was supported by a defence that never let Tampa Bay inside its 20 and held the Bucs in two field goals.

Oilers 21, Bengals 17

Highsmith, a contract holdout for the first eight games of the season, caught a 33-yard touchdown pass from Warren Moon and ran one yard for another.

Nets brush aside Cavaliers

McHale takes Celtics past Kings

SACRAMENTO, California, Dec 28, (AP): For Kevin McHale, his 16th fourth-quarter points were nothing more than what was expected of him.

"The guards were making great passes in there," said McHale, who finished with 25 points in the Boston Celtics' 114-102 National Basketball Association victory over Sacramento Kings last night. "When they do that, your job as the big man is to simply put it in the hole."

Added

"All I did was that I was supposed to do," Larry Bird led the Celtics with 35 points as they won their sixth

consecutive game. Otis Thorpe led Sacramento with 30 points, while Reggie Theus added 29.

In the only other NBA game yesterday, New Jersey trounced Cleveland 101-83. This evening, Philadelphia were at Phoenix and Denver at Seattle.

Boston coach K. C. Jones said he was impressed with Sacramento centre Joe Kleine, who had 14 points and a season-high 15 rebounds.

Kleine was more impressed with Bird's play than his own.

"Larry is such a good passer," Kleine said. "He's like a quarterback out there. He looks at all his receivers, then he coolly picks one to go for."

Svensson loses in first round

WELLINGTON, Dec 28, (Reuters): Top seed Jonas Svensson of Sweden fell to New Zealander David Lewis, ranked 419 in the world, in the first round of the New Zealand National Grand Prix tennis tournament today.

Lewis needed only an hour to complete his 6-4, 6-1 victory over Svensson, ranked 30th in the world.

A high wind swirled around the court during the match, hampering Svensson's big serving game. But he refused to blame the conditions for his defeat.

"You don't get beaten by wind. You cannot win by not

trying. I learned a lesson there," he said.

Svensson said the New Zealander — a brother of 1983 Wimbledon finalist Chris Lewis — had played better than he thought he could.

Lewis, a wild card entry, provided the day's big surprise, although third-seeded Australian John Frawley had to battle before beating US qualifier Robert Green 6-4, 3-6, 6-8.

First round matches continue tomorrow.

Results

David Lewis (New Zealand) beat Jonas B. Svensson (Sweden) 6-4, 6-1; Bruce Derlin (New Zealand) beat Andrew Castle

Cowboys tame Lions

CASPER, Wyoming, Dec 28, (AP): Wyoming forward Fennis Dembo, known far and wide as a great scorer, wants people to know he plays defence, too.

Dembo and his teammates played a sluggish first half against Columbia in the Wyoming Cowboy shootout tournament trailing 32-31 as Lions' guard Matt Shannon scored 12 points including a 3-point shot at the buzzer.

"Fennis asked for Shannon at halftime," said Wyoming coach Benny Dees. "He told me 'give me that guy and you worry about the rest.' He did a great job."

Dembo held Shannon scoreless in the second half and scored a season-high 33 points.

The result was a 92-56 victory by No. 5 Wyoming in the opening round of the fifth annual tournament in the only game

involving a ranked team.

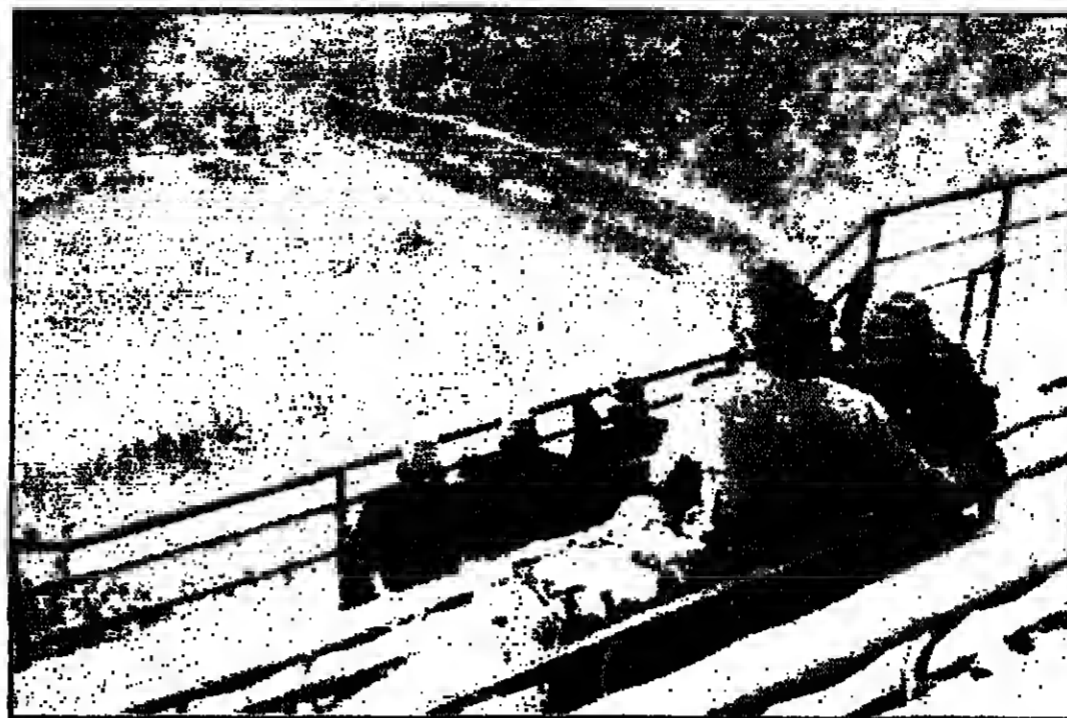
The victory raised the Cowboys to 8-0, their best start since the 1950-51 season. Wyoming was to go into championship play tonight against Eastern Kentucky, while Columbia faced Detroit in consolation play.

Dees credited the full-court press for turning the Cowboys' game around in the second half.

"We threw all the presses we had at them to get the tempo up," Dees said. "The thing that turned the game around for us was the press."

Turk Boyd added 15, Robyn Davis 14 and Eric Leckner 10 for Wyoming.

Eastern Kentucky guard Jeff McGill scored 21 points in the first game of the tournament to help send the Colonels into the championship game with a 67-55 win over Detroit.



Huddled together to keep warm, Broncos' fans watch their team battle Chargers during a driving snowstorm in Mile High Stadium. (Reuters radiophoto)

Chiefs 41, Seahawks 20

Palmer's 92-yard kickoff return highlighted a big-play day for Kansas City as the Chiefs dropped the Seahawks to 9-6 and forced them onto the road next week as a wild-card entry in the playoffs. Seattle's Steve Largent

caught the 751st pass of his 12-year career in the second quarter to surpass Charlie Joiner's all-time NFL record of 750.

Cowboys 21, Cardinals 16

Herschel Walker rushed for 137 yards, scored two touchdowns and played the perfect decoy for Steve Feller's game-deciding five-yard touchdown

run as Dallas killed St. Louis' playoff hopes. The loss by the Cardinals gave the remaining NFC wild-card spot to the Minnesota Vikings.

Saints 33, Packers 24

Morten Andersen kicked four first-half field goals and Dalton Hilliard sparked a three-touchdown second half as New

Soviet delegation holds talks on Seoul Games



Gavrilin (right) is greeted by SLOOC officials. (Reuters radiophoto)

SEOUL, South Korea, Dec 28, (AP): Soviet athletic officials held talks today with South Korean Olympic authorities in the strongest sign yet that Moscow will enter the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Vyacheslav Gavrilin, vice-president of the Soviet National Olympic Committee, met with Park Seh-Jik, president of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee (SLOOC).

Korean officials declined to provide any details on the talks, but sources close to the talks said the negotiations were to draw up arrangements for Soviet participation in the Games, which begin Sept 17, 1988.

Hungary and East Germany last week became the first Soviet

hlocactions to formally enter the Games.

Communist North Korea has threatened to call for a boycott unless it is made a co-host of the Games.

The International Olympic Committee and South Korea have rejected the North's and hope Soviet entry would forestall such a boycott. China is expected to compete in the Games.

Nations invited to enter the Olympics have until Jan 17 to formally accept. The Soviet Union is expected to announce its decision around Jan 15.

Korean officials said today they were keeping details of Park's talks with the Soviet secret because they did not want to provoke North Korea.

Nets 101, Cavaliers 83

New Jersey won for only the fifth time in 25 games as Dwayne Washington continued his recent hot scoring pace in the victory over Cleveland.

Washington, averaging 23.0 points in his last four games after starting the season with an 8.1 norm in his first 21 outings, scored 24 against the Cavaliers.

Mike Gminski added 23 points and Ben Coleman 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Nets. Mark Price led the Cavaliers with 20.

Standings

Eastern Conference Atlantic Division

| W | L | Pct | GB |
|----|----|------|----|
| 17 | 8 | .680 | — |
| 13 | 11 | .532 | 4 |

Boston Philadelphia

Washington 8 16 .333 8-1/2
New York 8 18 .308 9-1/2
New Jersey 5 20 .200 12

Central Division

| W | L | Pct | GB |
|----|----|------|-------|
| 17 | 5 | .773 | — |
| 14 | 9 | .609 | 3-1/2 |
| 15 | 11 | .577 | 4 |
| 13 | 12 | .520 | 5-1/2 |
| 12 | 14 | .462 | 7 |

Detroit Atlanta Milwaukee Chicago Indiana Cleveland

Western Conference Midwest Division

| W | L | Pct | GB |
|----|----|------|----|
| 16 | 8 | .667 | — |
| 19 | 9 | .640 | 1 |
| 12 | 12 | .500 | 4 |
| 12 | 12 | .500 | 4 |
| 12 | 14 | .462 | 5 |
| 7 | 19 | .269 | 10 |

Dallas Denver Houston San Antonio Utah Sacramento

Pacific Division

| W | L | Pct | GB |
|----|----|------|-------|
| 19 | 6 | .760 | — |
| 16 | 9 | .640 | 3 |
| 13 | 13 | .500 | 6-1/2 |
| 8 | 15 | .348 | 10 |
| 8 | 15 | .348 | 10 |
| 4 | 19 | .174 | 14 |

LA Lakers Portland Seattle LA Clippers Phoenix Golden State

Driver killed in kart crash

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida, Dec 28, (AP): A 25-year-old man from Renton, Washington, was fatally injured yesterday when he was racing karts during practice for WKA's Enduro World Championships at Daytona International Speedway.

James Kolman went off the course as he entered the infield portion of the 3.56-mile road course.

He was taken to Halifax Medical Centre, where he died a short time later.

It was the first fatality at Daytona International Speedway during the World Karting Association-sanctioned event.

NHL Games

NEW YORK, Dec 28, (Reuters): Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday (only games scheduled):

| | | | |
|-----------|---|------------|---|
| Quebec | 3 | Hartford | 3 |
| Buffalo | 3 | Pittsburgh | 3 |
| St. Louis | 3 | Chicago | 3 |
| New York | 4 | Boston | 4 |
| Minnesota | 5 | Detroit | 4 |

Schultz sails past Doohan

ADELAIDE, Dec 28, (Reuters): Peter Doohan was one of three surprise first-round casualties in the South Australian Open Tennis Championships today.

Doohan, a mid-year celebrity after beating West German star Boris Becker at Wimbledon, lost to American Bud Schultz 6-1, 6-2.

Doohan, who won the event in 1985, said the new rebound ace artificial court surface had not played a part in his downfall.

"I don't think it would have made any difference to my game today playing on grass," he said.

"It was just a bad day at the office. I never got started and he just kept hitting winners."

Earlier, Australian Davis Cup player Darren Cahill was ousted by West German Patrick Baur 6-7, 5-6, 6-2.

many beat Valda Lake

6-4, 6-1; Julie Halard (France) beat Jenny Byrne 6-1, 6-1; Pascale Paradis (France) beat Kerry-Anne Guse 6-2, 6-0; Catherine Suire (France) beat Michelle Jaggar 6-4, 6-4; Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia) beat Alison Scott 6-4, 7-6 (7-4); Belinda Cordwell (New Zealand) beat Anne Minter 6-3, 6-3; Rosalyn Fairbank (South Africa) beat Patricia Hy (Hong Kong) 6-4, 6-4.

Tina Mochizuki (US) beat Julie Salmon (Britain) 7-5, 7-6 (8-6); Patty Fendick (US) beat Catherine Tanvier (France) 7-5, 6-3; Jo Durie (Britain) beat Sally McCann 6-1, 6-2; Emiko Okagawa (Japan) beat Tracey Morton 6-2, 6-3; Masako Yanagi (Japan) beat Eva Krapf (Switzerland) 7-5, 6-2; Manon Bollegraf (Netherlands) beat Louise Field 6-3, 6-1.

(Australian unless stated): Alexia Dechaume (France) beat Rachel McQuillan 6-0, 6-3; Radka Zrubkova (Czechoslovakia) beat Hellas Ter Riet (Netherlands) 6-3, 6-3; Janine Thompson beat Brenda Schultz (Netherlands) 6-4, 6-4, 6-3; Betsy Nagelsen (US) beat Maria Lindstrom (Sweden) 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-1); Elizabeth Minter beat Emmanuelle Derly (France) 6-1, 6-3; Nicole Provis beat Wiltrud Probst (West Germany) 6-4, 6-0; Claudia Porwik (West Ger-

many) beat Valda Lake (Britain) 6-4, 6-1; Julie Halard (France) beat Jenny Byrne 6-1, 6-1; Pascale Paradis (France) beat Kerry-Anne Guse 6-2, 6-0; Catherine Suire (France) beat Michelle Jaggar 6-4, 6-4; Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia) beat Alison Scott 6-4, 7-6 (7-4); Belinda Cordwell (New Zealand) beat Anne Minter 6-3, 6-3; Rosalyn Fairbank (South Africa) beat Patricia Hy (Hong Kong) 6-4, 6-4.

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Durie: routs McCann

Starlite and Unity triumph

STARLITE brushed aside Gulf Bank by seven wickets while Unity were made to struggle for their victory in the Air Lanka Challenge Cup Thursday League matches in Ahmadi this week.

At the Oval, Gulf Bank after winning the toss and batting first were all out for only 124 in 24 overs. Ismail was the top scorer for the Bankers with 37.

The other batsmen, for Gulf Bank, to reach the double figures were Winston 19, Perwaiz 17, and Aijaz 14.

For Starlite, Sohail and Ifikhar took two wickets each while Qayyum and Maqbool got one each.

Arshad and Qayyum, the regular Starlite openers, put on 43 runs before the former was put out for 34. Ifikhar and Qayyum then put on 57 runs for the second-wicket. Qayyum was out for 30 but Ifikhar with 34 and Amjad 16 took Starlite past the victory target in the 21st over.

Openers

In the second game, a depleted Unity side opened their innings through Ejaz and Bader. Both the openers were in good form and put on 102 runs for the first wicket before Bader was out for 36.

Ejaz produced one of his best innings for Unity as he hit three sixes and four fours in his knock of 57. Dawood 24 and Baber 19 helped Unity reach 160 for five in 24 overs.

Deccan Green after losing the first two wickets for only 33 were given a boost by Salim Anwar and Aslam. Both these batsmen threatened to take the game away from Unity.

Salim hit 55 and Aslam 41 but after they were out, Deccan Green could only manage to score 156 for the loss of eight wickets when time was called. As Unity had scored 157 at the same stage, they were declared winners. Dawood and Ejaz took two wickets each while Chris and Bader picked up one apiece.

Salim hit 55 and Aslam 41 but after they were out, Deccan Green could only manage to score 156 for the loss of eight wickets when time was called. As Unity had scored 157 at the same stage, they were declared winners. Dawood and Ejaz took two wickets each while Chris and Bader picked up one apiece.

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Salim hit 55 and Aslam 41 but after they

SPORTS

W. Australia hammer Sri Lanka

PERTH, Australia, Dec 28, (Reuters): Mark McPhee pulverised the Sri Lankan bowlers as Western Australia reached 484 for eight on the first day of their two-day cricket match here today.

McPhee scored a dazzling 131 from 129 balls and put on 201 for the first wicket with Greg Shipperd after Western Australia had won the toss and batted.

The run spree provided sweet revenge for the state side after they were beaten by Sri Lanka in a limited-overs match on Saturday.

Caught

McPhee, who was dropped when he had scored nine, took 124 minutes to reach his half-century but then unleashed a savage onslaught, his second 50 coming in 42 minutes off 30 deliveries.

He reached from 100 to 131 in a further 13 minutes before being caught on the long-on boundary.

Not only did McPhee play the bowlers, but he also hurt the fielders. He hit Hashan Tillekeratne at short leg a nasty blow on the right arm and a scorching cover drive severely damaged one of Asanka Gurusinghe's fingers.

Tillekeratne and Gurusinghe spent the afternoon off the field but they hope to be fit to bat tomorrow.

Shipperd was stumped for 64 without any addition to the score but then Tom Moody, Wayne Andrews, Kim Hughes and Todd Brasher continued the slaughter which did little to inspire confidence in the Sri Lankan attack five days before they face Australia in the opening match of the World Series Cup.

The most successful bowler was off-spinner Aravinda de Silva, who finished with four for 109 in 19 overs.

Scoreboard

WESTERN AUSTRALIA first innings:

G. Shipperd st De Alwis b P.A. de Silva 64

M. McPhee c sub b P.A. de Silva 131

Moody c Labrooy b P.A. de Silva 57

W. Andrews c Samarasekera b P.A. de Silva 70

K. Hughes c De Alwis b Samarasekera 46

T. Brennan not out 41

T. Zoehrer c Kuruppu b Labrooy 1

C. Matthews c Kuruppu b Labrooy 1

Hogan c Amaleen b Samarasekera 21

P. Capes not out 6

Extras (lb-4 nb-11 w-1) 16

Total (for eight wickets) 484

Fall of wickets: 1-201 2-201 3-310 4-341 5-412 6-425 7-431 8-467.

Bowling: Labrooy 18-1-85-2 (3nb), Ramanayake 21-0-92-0 (7nb), Amaleen 14-2-52-0, A. de Silva 11-0-59-0 (1nb), Samarasekera 13-0-69-2 (1w) P.A. de Silva 19-0-109-4, Ramanayake 4-0-14-0.

Climb abandoned

KATMANDU, Nepal, Dec 28, (AP): A four-member team from Tokyo has abandoned its effort to climb the 8,091-metre Mount Annapurna 1, Nepal's Tourism Ministry said today. The ministry said the team had climbed to 6,100 metres on Dec 4 but was unable to go higher, and abandoned the climb on Dec 17.

Golf journey

CORAL GABLES, Florida, Dec 28, (AP): Nicky Goetze of Hull, Georgia, fired an opening round 66 yesterday to lead the boys' division and his sister Vicki tied with Sandrine Mendiburu of Paris at 75 to top the girls' division of the Junior Orange Bowl golf tournament.

AUSTRALIAN LOWER ORDER WREST BACK INITIATIVE

Sleep and Dodemaide slam New Zealand

MELBOURNE, Dec 28, (Reuters): Peter Sleep hit 90 to mastermind a fightback by Australia's lower order and wrest the initiative from a lacklustre New Zealand side on the third day of the third and final Test.

At stumps today New Zealand were nought for no wicket after one over in their second innings. Australia had built a first innings lead of 40 after being dismissed for 357.

Blows

Sleep received excellent support from Greg Dyer, with 31, and Tony Dodemaide who was last man out after scoring 50 on his Test debut.

Dodemaide, playing on his home ground, built a record ninth-wicket stand for Australia against New Zealand of 61 with Craig McDermott, who struck several heavy blows before being bowled by Danny Morrison for 33.

After yesterday's pyrotechnics from Richard Hadlee, the performance of the New Zealand bowlers was uninspiring. They were not helped by a lack of urgency in the field from a side needing to win this match to square the series.

Hadlee picked up the wicket of Sleep, plumb lbw, to register his 31st five-wicket haul in Test



Hadlee appeals for an lbw decision against Sleep. (Reuters radiophoto)

cricket and put him just five wickets behind the most successful bowler in Test history, England's Ian Botham, who has 375 scalps.

But the great paceman never really motivated and captain Jeff Crowe quickly seemed to run out of ideas, often relying on 37-year-old Ewen Chatfield, who in 30 overs, never looked remotely like taking his first wicket of the series.

After a delayed start due to a damp pitch, Steve Waugh was dismissed to the second ball of the day bowled by John Bracewell without adding to his overnight 55.

At 170 for six, Australia were in trouble, but Sleep and Dyer showed their more illustrious team-mates how to knuckle down, content to score through singles and the odd boundary.

Dyer, unmoved by the con-



Dodemaide evades a bouncer from Danny Morrison. (Reuters radiophoto)

troversy surrounding his dismissal of Andrew Jones, reached 21 before being smartly run out.

Off-spinner Bracewell retrieved a straight drive off his own bowling and threw it to wicketkeeper Ian Smith. Dyer slipped while trying to turn and could not make his ground.

Sleep reached his third Test 50 and highest Test score of 65 in the second session while Dodemaide grew in confidence as the shine

left the second new ball.

The two had put on 80 when Sleep, who hit 62 in the second Test, was dismissed following Hadlee's return to the attack.

Dodemaide played second fiddle to McDermott and was lucky to survive a clear stumping chance when just short of his 50, one of the many errors committed by the New Zealanders.

However, Smith soon made up for it with a lunging catch to

dismiss the Victorian all-rounder.

Hadlee finished with five for 109 off 44 overs. The previous ninth-wicket record was set by Rod Marsh and Len Pascoe in Perth in 1980/81.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings:

317 (J. Wright 99, M. Crowe 82, C. McDermott 55 for 97, M. Whitney four for 92).

AUSTRALIA first innings (overnight 170 for five):

D. Jones c Smith b Hadlee 4

A. Borden c J. Crowe b Bracewell 31

M. Veletta lbw b Hadlee 31

S. Waugh c Jones b Bracewell 55

P. Sleep lbw b Hadlee 90

G. Dyer run out 21

A. Dodemaide c Smith b Morrison 50

C. McDermott b Morrison 33

M. Whitney not out 0

Extras (lb-8 nb-11) 19

Total 357

Fall of wickets: 1-24 2-30 3-31 4-78 5-121 6-170 7-213 8-293 9-354.

Bowling: Hadlee 4-1-109-5 (5nb), Morrison 27-4-5-93-2 (6nb), Chatfield 30-10-55-0, Bracewell 32-8-69-2, Patel 12-6-23-0.

NEW ZEALAND second innings:

P. Horne not out 0

J. Wright not out 0

Total (for no wicket) 0

Bowling to date: McDermott 1-1-0-0

Richards clashes with umpire

Indian batsmen maul West Indies

CALCUTTA, Dec 28, (Reuters): West Indies captain Viv Richards was involved in a heated exchange with an umpire over a rejected appeal for a catch in the third Test against India today.

The drama unfolded as India built a strong reply to the touring team's first innings score of 530 for five declared. By the close of the third day they had made 304 for three.

Richie Richardson claimed a catch at second slip from an edged shot by Mohammed Azharuddin, but umpire, Pilo Reporter turned down the appeal.

He later told reporters he had consulted his colleague Ram Babu Gupta before deciding that the shot, off Courtney Walsh's bowling, had gone to Richardson's first bounce.

Play stopped for a few minutes as Richards exchanged angry words with Reporter and the row between the two started up again after the next Walsh delivery when Reporter turned down a leg before appeal.

Azharuddin, on 21 at the time,

kept out of the argument. He was unbeaten on 60 at the close.

His captain Dilip Vengsarkar said later that he was not in a position to discuss the Richards-Reporter confrontation, but a senior Indian cricket official, who did not want to be named, told Reuters: "Richards abused Reporter. Richards was then warned by Reporter and colleague Ram Babu Gupta. But they did not ask for an apology."

Richards and team manager Jackie Hendricks were not immediately available for comment.

The confrontation between Richards and Reporter came three weeks after England captain Mike Gatting and umpire Shakoor Rana accused each other of searing at each other in a heated exchange over field placings during a Test match in Faisalabad, Pakistan.

More than a day's play was lost before the issue was resolved when Gatting was instructed by the English Test and County Cricket Board to give an unconditional written apology to Shakoor.

Krisnamachari Srikanth and Arun Lal had earlier resumed the Indian innings at 20 without loss and Srikanth began belligerently by hammering Patrick Patterson for three fours.

But after contributing 23 to an opening stand of 56, Srikanth edged Walsh to wicketkeeper Jeff Dujon.

Walsh took two of the three wickets to fall during the day, at a cost of 68 runs. Winston Davis, who claimed the other, finished with one for 52.

Srikanth's dismissal brought Mohinder Amarnath to the crease and he joined Lal in a 96-run partnership which pulled India out of trouble.

Lal, a tea company executive, dominated the stand with exquisitely timed strokes that delighted the crowd of 45,000.

He lost Amarnath at 152, Davis bowling him with a ball that straightened off the pitch, and at 201 Lal himself was out, missing a maiden Test century by seven runs when he was lbw to Walsh.

Reporter gave him out to the dismay of the crowd who heckled

the umpire when he walked back to the pavilion at the tea interval.

Lal, who faced 133 balls and hit 13 fours, was replaced by Azharuddin who with Vengsarkar saw India through the rest of the day without further setbacks, putting on 103 for the fourth wicket.

Vengsarkar played cautiously for his undefeated 53 by the close, allowing Azharuddin to dominate the partnership with an unbeaten 60 which contained eight boundaries.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings 530 for five declared (C. Greenidge 141, G. Logie 101, C. Hooper 100 not out).

INDIA first innings (overnight 20 for no wicket):

K. Srikanth c Dujon b Walsh 23

A. Lal lbw b Walsh 93

M. Amarnath b Davis 43

D. Vengsarkar not out 53

M. Azharuddin not out 60

Extras (lb-2 nb-16 sb-14) 37

Total (for three wickets) 304

Fall of wickets: 1-56 2-152 3-201

To bat: R. Shastri, Kapil Dev, K. More, A. Ayub, C. Sharma, M. Singh.

Bowling to date: Patterson 10-0-57-0, Walsh 16-2-68-2, Davis 12-0-52-1, Bots 26-6-75-0, Richards 10-1-22-0, Hooper 5-1-12-0.

Top player

PARIS, Dec 28, (AP): Ruud Gullit of the Netherlands was named the winner of the "Ballon d'Or" as this year's top European soccer player today in a poll conducted by France Football, a weekly soccer magazine.

Gullit, a striker for Milan AC in the Italian League, becomes the second Dutch player to win the award. Johan Cruyff took the honour three times in the early 1970's. Last year, the Soviet Union's Igor Belanov was first in the voting by 27 journalists throughout Europe.

Gullit played for PSV Eindhoven last year before transferring to the Italian club. He received 105 points in the voting.

Standings

English League soccer tables after matches played today: (tablets - played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points).

| Division One | Division Two | Division Three | Division Four |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Liverpool 21 16 5 0 51 11 53 | Middlesbrough 26 14 7 5 36 17 49 | Sunderland 24 14 7 3 48 21 49 | Wolves 23 13 5 4 40 29 35 |
| Nottingham Forest 20 13 4 3 44 16 43 | Bradford 26 14 6 4 31 20 48 | Not's County 24 13 8 3 47 27 47 | Leyton O. 23 14 4 5 34 43 |
| Arsenal 22 12 4 6 35 20 40 | Aston Villa 26 12 10 4 37 23 46 | Walsall 24 12 8 4 35 22 44 | Colchester 23 12 6 5 33 24 42 |
| Manchester U. 21 10 7 3 35 22 38 | Crystal P. 25 14 3 8 33 37 45 | Bristol C. 24 11 7 6 46 38 40 | Bolton 23 11 5 7 31 24 39 |
| Everton 22 10 7 3 32 15 37 | Milwall 26 14 3 9 45 34 45 | Brighton 24 10 4 10 36 38 38 | Torquay 23 11 5 7 36 25 36 |
| Q.P.R. 22 10 6 2 27 27 36 | Sheff. U. 26 12 6 8 34 35 42 | Northampton 24 9 10 5 36 34 37 | Scarbrough 24 10 8 6 34 25 38 |
| Wimbledon 22 9 7 6 31 25 34 | Sheff. W. 26 12 6 8 34 35 42 | Fulham 24 9 5 5 35 24 35 | Southampton 24 9 9 6 34 25 36 |
| Chelsea 22 8 5 9 31 36 29 | Blackburn 25 11 9 5 32 24 42 | Wigan 24 10 5 9 35 29 35 | Darlington 23 10 5 8 40 34 35 |
| Luton 21 8 4 9 27 23 29 | | | Cambridge 24 10 5 9 30 25 35 |



Ayub: all round performance

Falcon edge past CCK

FALCON Cricket Club defeated Cricket Club of Kuwait (CCK) by three wickets in a match of the Brad Trophy at the EPI ground on Friday.

Battling first, CCK were all out for 157 in 34.4 overs. Raees with 52, Riaz 22 and Rifai 25 were the main scorers.

Heading

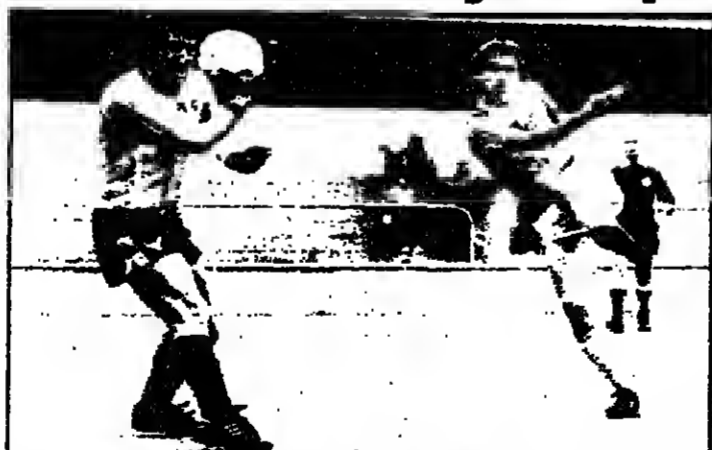
For Falcon, Amin took five wickets for only 18 runs. His nagging line and length never allowed the batsmen to settle down. Skipper Zahid Butt and all-rounder Ayub also bowled well and took two wickets each.

Falcon, needing to score just under four runs per over, were

tormented by Pervaz who bagged four wickets. Falcon at one stage were reduced to 99 for seven and seemed to be heading for a defeat.

Ayub, after his fine performance with the ball, and Imran put their head down and repaired the damage. They scored mostly in ones and twos but never spared anything loose. Ayub and Imran put on 60 runs for the eighth-wicket to take Falcons past the victory target.

Ayub scored 36 and Imran 22. Earlier Sajjad 29, Zahid 15 and Syed Anjum Raza with 18 were the only other batsmen to reach the double figures.



Mark Falco of QPR (right) slams the ball past Oxford's Billy Whitehurst. (Reuters radiophoto)

| Division One | Division Two | Division Three | Division Four |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Tottenham 2 2 West Ham 1 | Fulham 2 2 Brentford 2 | | |
| Wimbledon 2 2 Arsenal 1 | Grimby 2 2 Port Vale 1 | | |
| Aston Villa 2 2 Huddersfield 1 | Northampton 2 2 Scarbrough 1 | | |
| Blackburn 2 2 Bradford 1 | Rotherham 2 2 Doncaster 1 | | |
| Bournemouth 2 2 West Bromwich 2 | Southend 2 2 Bristol R. 1 | | |
| Crystal P. 2 2 Reading 1 | Sunderland 2 2 Preston 1 | | |
| Luton 2 2 Middlesbrough 1 | Wigan 2 2 Chester 1 | | |
| Milwall 2 2 Sheff. U. 1 | York 2 2 Mansfield 2 | | |
| Oldham 2 2 Shrewsbury 0 | Bolton 2 2 Stockport 1 | | |
| Sheff. W. 2 2 Birmingham 0 | Cambridge 2 2 Scarbrough 1 | | |
| Stoke 2 2 Manchester City 2 | Leyton O. 2 2 Burnley 2 | | |
| Swindon 2 2 Ipswich 1 | Leiston 2 2 Scarbrough 1 | | |
| | Richdale 2 2 Hartlepool 2 | | |
| | Gillingham 2 2 Swansea 1 | | |
| | Blackpool 2 2 Notts County 1 | | |
| | Bristol City 2 2 Wolves 1 | | |
| | Cherthfield 2 2 Wrexham 1 | | |

Liverpool rout Newcastle to stay 10-points clear

LONDON, Dec 28, (Reuters): Liverpool completed a pitiless Christmas programme when they beat Newcastle 4-0 today their 10th win in 11 home League games this season - to maintain a 10-point lead at the top of the English First Division.

Steve McMahon, after only four minutes, John Aldridge, with two second-half goals, and Ray Houghton, two minutes from the end, scored the goals that extended Liverpool's unbeaten start to the season to 21 matches.

Destruction

Second-placed Nottingham Forest were also in fine goal-scoring form, winning 4-1 at home against Coventry after Cyrille Regis had given them the lead in the 25th minute.

Tommy Gaynor put Forest on the road back with goals in the 30th and 72nd minutes and Brian Burrows, with an own goal, and Terry Wilson completed Coventry's destruction.

Liverpool now have 53 points having completed exactly half their League games while Forest, who have played one match fewer have 43 points, three ahead

of Arsenal who were beaten 3-1 at Wimbledon.

Manchester United took over fourth place from Everton with a 2-1 home win over the champions, Brian McClair scoring both their goals to take his tally to 16 since joining United from Glasgow Celtic before the start of the season.

With 38 points from 21 matches, United are just two behind Arsenal with a game in hand.

Liverpool, who won 3-0 at Oxford on Saturday to set a club record of 20 unbeaten League matches, showed no sign of faltering in their quest for a 17th League title.

A crowd of 31,000 their highest of the season, watched Nottingham Forest rout FA Cup holders Coventry in a fast-and-furious game that saw Forest display character as well as skill after Regis's early strike from a corner.

Results

| English Division One | English Division Two |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Liverpool 4 Newcastle 0 | 1 Charlton 1 |
| Luton 2 2 Everton 1 | 2 Chelsea 1 |
| Nottingham 2 2 Nott. Forest 1 | 3 Coventry 1 |
| Portsmouth 1 1 Walsall 1 | 4 Walsall 1 |
| Q.P.R. 3 3 Oxford 2 | 5 Oxford 2 |
| Sheff. Wed. 2 2 Derby 1 | |

Kifco rout Bright Star for final

KIFCO reached the final of the Al Athia Cricket Trophy with a six-wicket victory over Bright Star at the KCL ground on Friday.

Bright Star elected to bat first and they put on 161 runs for the loss of eight wickets. Only Salam (38) and Nadeem (30) could face the Kifco bowlers with any confidence.

For Kifco, Shahid Pervaz captured three wickets for 28 while Shehzad got two for 23 and Rifat two for 33.

Kifco started their innings on a solid note, through Nasir and Zahid hit 55 and 49 runs respectively. Azam and Aqueel then took the score to 143 before the latter was out for 17.

Kifco reached the target for the loss of only one more wicket in the 27th over. They will now meet Evergreen in the final on Jan 4, 1988.

The tournament is being organised by the Kuwait Cricket League.

SPORTS BRIEFS

World Cup

MUNICH, West Germany, Dec 28, (AP): West German organisers today postponed a Nordic combined World Cup ski competition and said that three Alpine World Cup events may be cancelled due to lack of snow. The Nordic combined event in Schonach, originally scheduled for Jan 2-3 was postponed until Jan 5-6, weather permitting.

Grand National

CHEPSTOW, Wales, Dec 28, (AP): Playschool, a New Zealand bred gelding ridden by Paul Nicholls, held off a challenge from Rhyme o' Reason to win the £25,000 (\$45,000) Welsh Grand National today.

Canada win

MOSCOW, Dec 28, (AP): Adam Graves and Theoren Fleury scored less than two minutes apart in the third period to take Canada to 4-2 victory over Czechoslovakia today at the World Junior Hockey Championships.



Jahangir: top player

Jahangir and Qamar to play in Kuwait

SOME of the world's top squash players will be seen in action in Kuwait next month when the 4th Asian Squash Championships start on Jan 20.

So far the participation of two of these players, Pakistan's Jahangir Khan and Qamar Zaman, has been confirmed by the local squash authorities.

Jahangir, who remained unbeaten for 5-1/2 years before losing his world No. 1 ranking to compatriot Jansher Khan, is trying to regain the form which once made him invincible.

Qamar, once a major force to contend with still ranks among the world's top players. Jansher's participation in this event has yet to be confirmed but even without him Pakistan will still be the clear favourites.

15 countries, besides Kuwait, so far confirmed their participation but the total is expected to rise to 18.

Completed

The Kuwaiti Squash Federation, headed by Sheikh Fahd Saad Al Abdalla, has almost completed the preparations for the championships. Sheikh Fahd, in a meeting held recently, stressed on the importance of holding such events for Kuwait and the Arab world.

Meanwhile, the secretary-general of the federation, Sulaiman Al Randi, has sent invitations to senior sports officials to attend this event. He said that the matches would be played on four courts including the Al Arabi Sports Club, where the opening and closing ceremonies will be held.

The Kuwaiti TV will show all the matches live.

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